SHERLOCK BONES

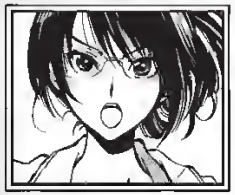
5

STORY BY
YUMA ANDO
ART BY
YUKI SATO

Sherlock Bones 5

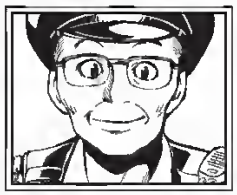
Sherdog & Takeru

Story: Yuma Ando Art: Yuki Sato



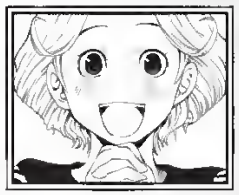
Airin Wajima

Takeru's sister, an inspector in the Violent Crimes Division. Sherdog calls her Irene.



Kosuke Wajima

Takeru's father. A sergeant in the police force.



Satoko Wajima

Takeru's mother. She really hates it when Sherdog sits in her favorite rocking chair.

Akane Nanami

A second-year at London Academy High School, and friend of Takeru and Miki. President of the volunteer club.

Mika Takasugi

The mayor of London, she is gaining attention as the "too beautiful mayor."

THE STORY SO FAR

The puppy Sherdog—reincarnation of Sherlock Holmes—and the ordinary high school student Takeru Wajima team up to solve tough cases! Takeru and company are visiting city hall to interview London's "too beautiful mayor" for the school newspaper. But right before their visit, the mayor was busy killing her former lover...

STORY

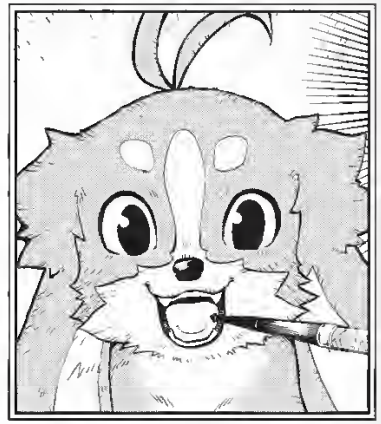
CHARACTERS

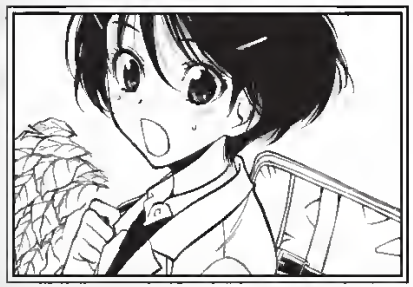
Takeru Wajima

A second-year at London Academy High School, he is an ordinary student who loves dogs. He is Sherdog's owner and the one person who can understand him. He and Sherdog must team up to solve all kinds of difficult cases. He has a crush on his childhood friend Miki.

Sherdog (Sherlock Holmes)

The mixed-breed puppy that Takeru adopted. His true identity is that of the world-famous detective, Sherlock Holmes. When he has the Wajima family's heirloom pipe in his mouth, he can speak to Takeru. He solves crimes with Takeru, learning about the modern world in the process.





Miki Arisaka

A second-year at London Academy High School. Takeru's friend since childhood, and a member of the school newspaper staff.

Volume.5

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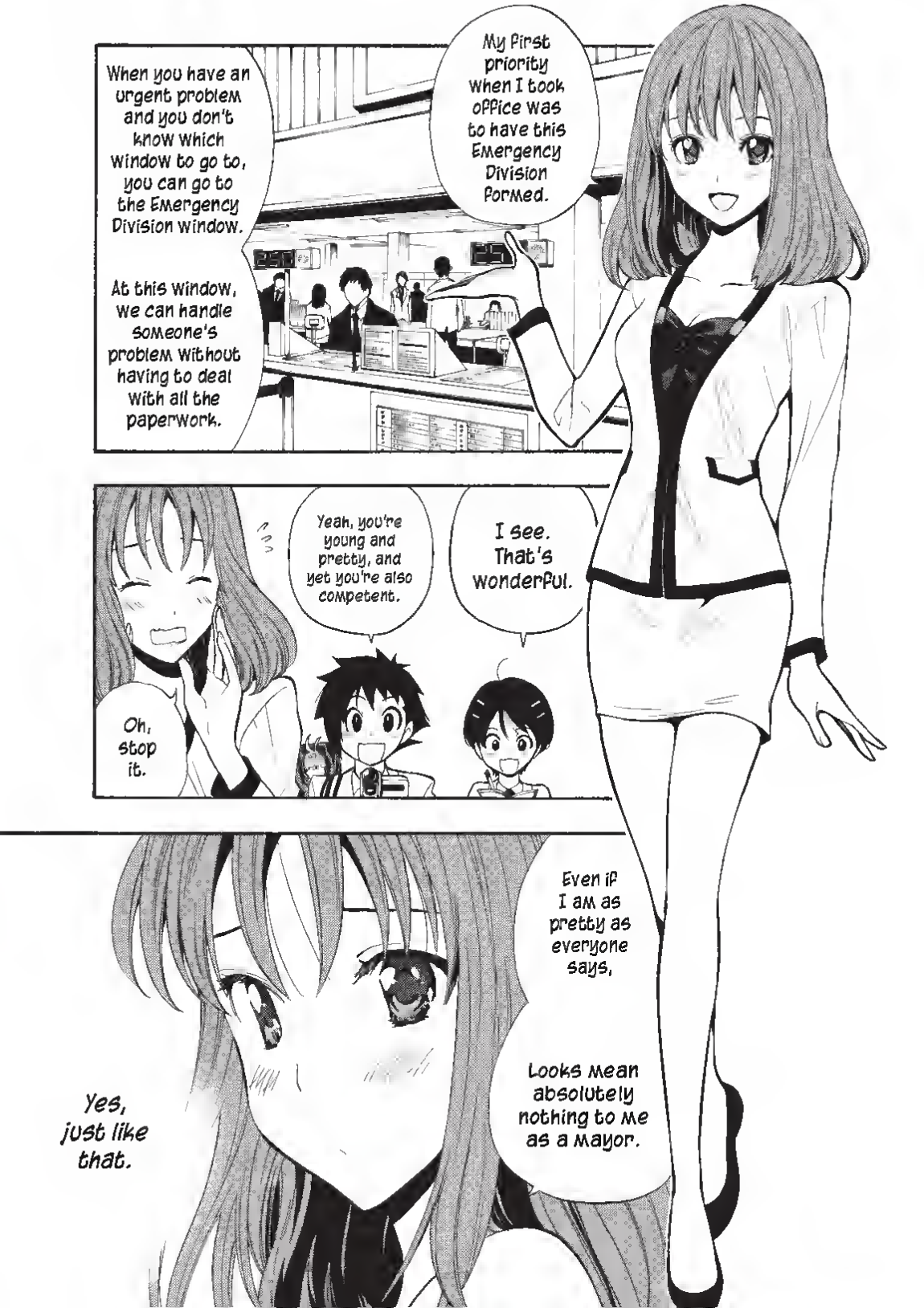
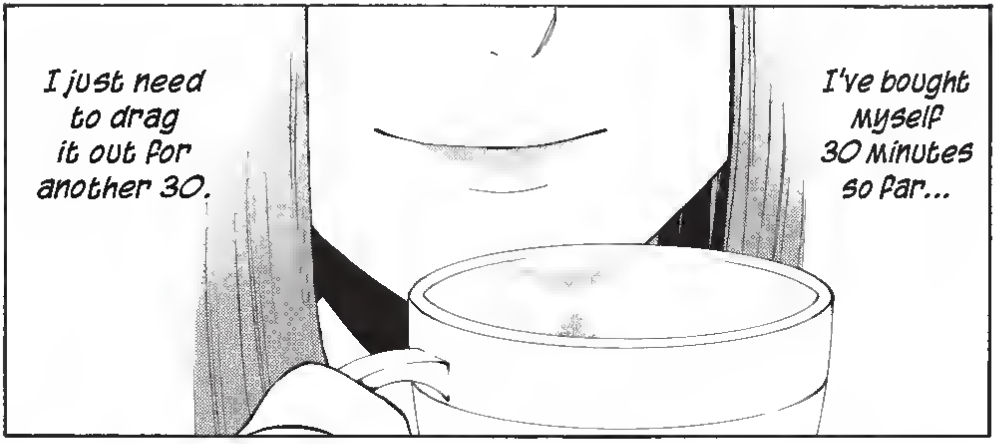
Case 7: ⚜ Hidden from the Press, Part 2

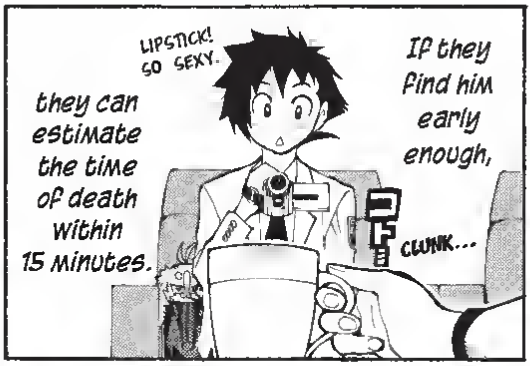

When you have an urgent problem and you don't know which window to go to, you can go to the Emergency Division window.
At this window, we can handle someone's problem without having to deal with all the paperwork.
My first priority when I took office was to have this Emergency Division formed.
I see. That's wonderful.
Yeah, you're young and pretty, and yet you're also competent.
Oh, stop it.
Even if I am as pretty as everyone says,
Looks mean absolutely nothing to me as a mayor.
Yes, just like that.

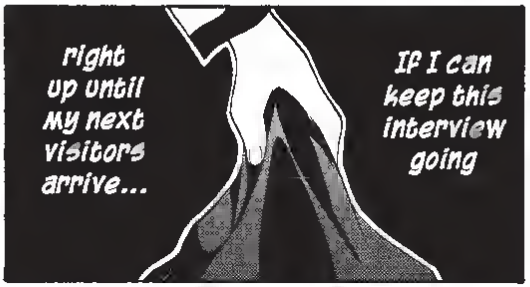
...
Because that...
Just keep taking my picture.
Don't miss a single thing.
...will be my rock-solid alibi!

Thank you for coming today.
I just asked my secretary to bring us some coffee. I hope you don't mind.
Oh...oh, no, you shouldn't have. ...We're just high school kids.
SNIFF SNIFF
KNOCK KNOCK
She doesn't disappoint.
That doesn't make a difference to me.
CREAK...
Anyone who is here to see me, is my guest.
Here's your coffee.
Thank you.
Now if it's okay,
I would like to start the interview.
Yes, please do.

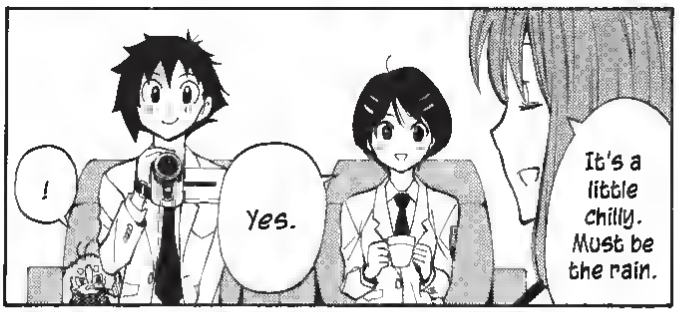

I just need to drag it out for another 30.
I've bought myself 30 minutes so far...

So where would you like to begin?
PWAH


LIPSTICK! SO SEXY.
they can estimate the time of death within 15 minutes.
If they find him early enough,
CLUNK...


right up until my next visitors arrive...
If I can keep this interview going

ARF!


!
Yes.
It's a little chilly. Must be the rain.

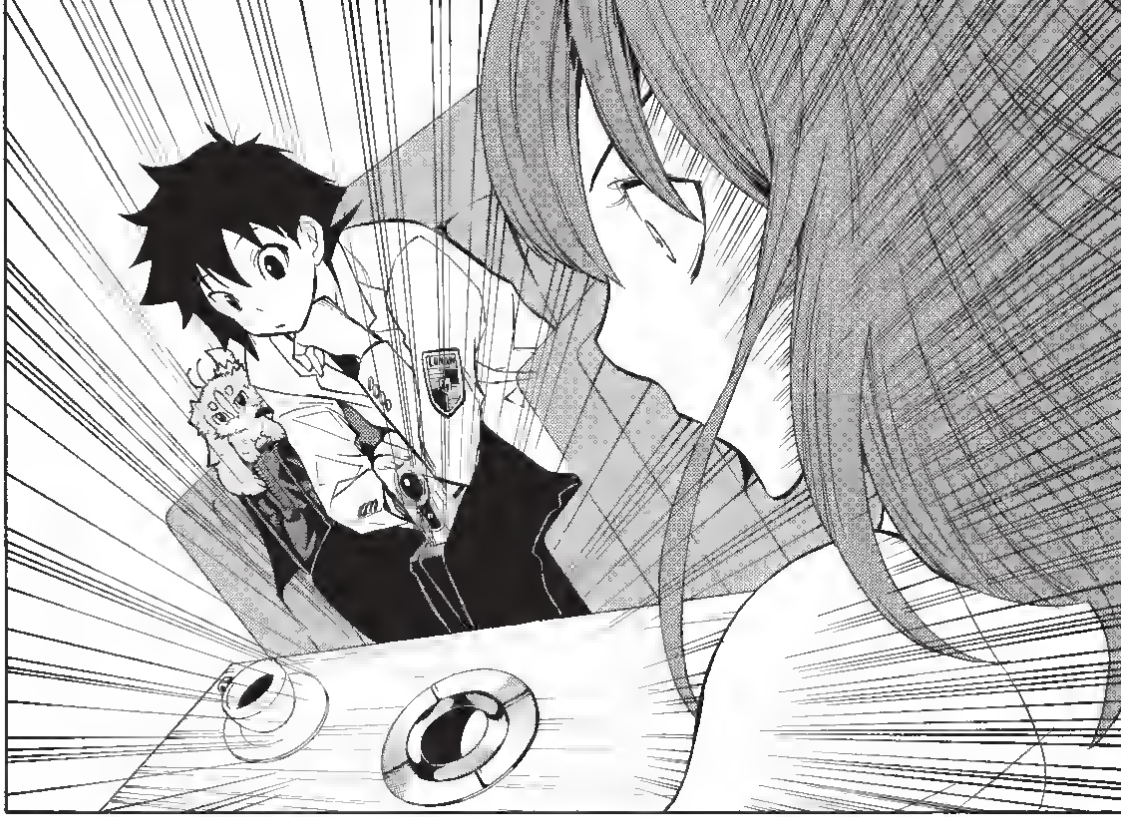
Let me just turn that off for you!
しゃたっ!
STMP!
THAT WAS FAST!
Oh, that's okay. Leave it on.
WHOOSH...
ゴォォ!!
Oh! The air conditioner is on!
...
Um...Mayor Takasugi.
Yes?
I want to dehumidify the room.
ニコニコ
GRIN
Oh! Dehumidify. Right.
AH! HA!
GRRR...

You...you think so? Well, all right...
And I bet a lot of them would love to see where you work.
I hate to impose, but I'M sure you've got tons of fans.
Do you mind if I go around the office to get some pictures?
スッ
ss
Thank you very much!
OFF I GO...
...
What is wrong with that kid?

...
It's creepy.
Why does he have to take pictures of every little thing?
Y-yes. What about it?
Ms. Mayor. You said before that you drank from this coffee cup, right?
Huh?
!!
There's no lipstick on it.

And I guess it would bug you even if no one else is around!
Oh, I see!
I wiped it off.
I'm one of those people. It bugs me.
SQUEAK
...Oh.
They don't call you "too beautiful" for nothing.
SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS THIS KID'S PROBLEM?!
You think so? Thank you.

I caught a whiff of cigarette smoke when I came in.
You should take better care of yourself.
By the way, Ms. Mayor, do you smoke?
What?
Oh!
So you did see someone else.
...It still smelled like his cigarette? I didn't notice.
Crap...
The electrician.
IRK
Maybe the smell was from my previous visitor.
I don't smoke.
Oh, right.
GLANCE



What? You emptied it? PERSONALLY?
Because I was expecting you kids.
...Oh, I emptied it—the ashtray, I mean.

TWITCH...
he might have his own portable ashtray.
Oh, okay. I just thought, since he's an electrician,

So what prompted you to run for mayor, Ms. Takasugi?
Right, sorry!
We'll run out of time for our interview.
Ugh, Takeru! Would you stop asking her pointless questions!
...
That's right.
Whew... I wasted some time there.
But it might actually work in my favor— I don't have to drag it out myself.
Well, naturally I was unhappy with the way the last mayor ran things.
For example...

THE REAL GAME IS ONLY ABOUT TO BEGIN.

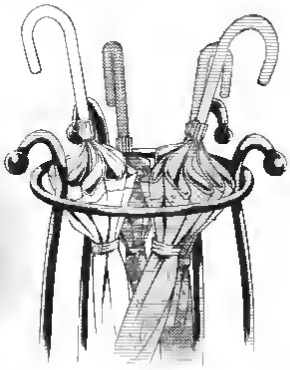
...

I'll grab the coffee pot and...
Then if you still have time,
No, I think that should do it.
BRR-RING
Well, do you have any other questions?
Oh... I see. Let them in right away.
There's someone here to see you.
Hello?
CHAK
Yes, of course!
Well? Do you think this will make a good article for your school paper?
KNOCK KNOCK
I'm sorry I couldn't get you more coffee.
Oh, no, it looks like my next appointment is here.
Thank you so much!
Oh, it's no problem!

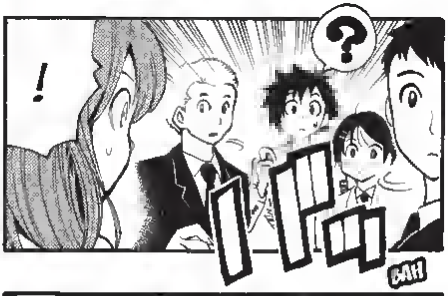
Well, if you'll excuse us.
Yes, take care.
It's a pleasure to meet you.
I'm Kobayashi, a politics writer for Mai-Mai Shimbun.
Hello, Ms. Mayor!
KACHAK

LONDON

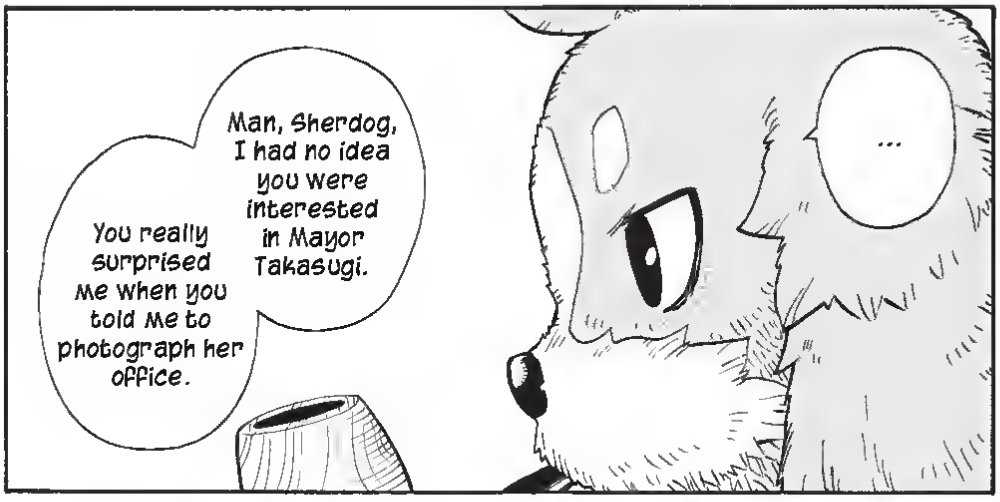
I'm pretty sure the umbrella in the back is his umbrella.

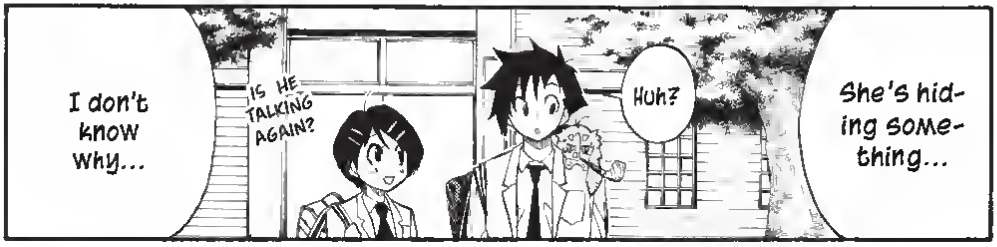


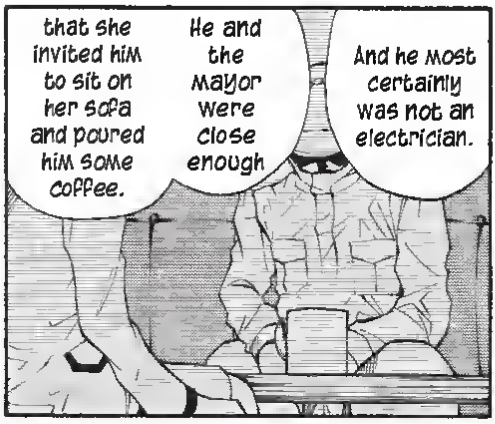
And that boy... of course he'd take that one by mistake.



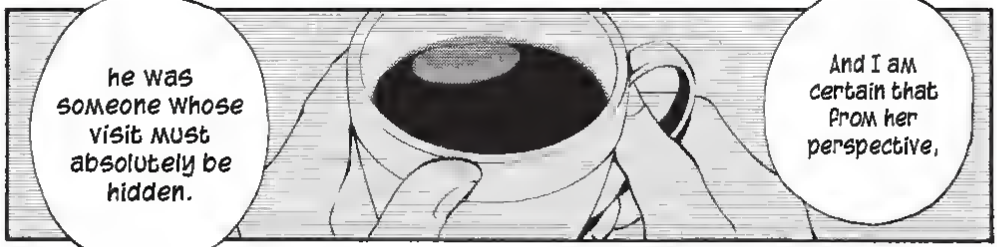
No problem.


Man, Sherdog, I had no idea you were interested in Mayor Takasugi.
You really surprised me when you told me to photograph her office.
...


I don't know why...
IS HE TALKING AGAIN?
Huh?
She's hiding something...


that she invited him to sit on her sofa and poured him some coffee.
He and the Mayor were close enough
And he most certainly was not an electrician.

that the Man who kicked Me was in her office.
But there is no doubt in My Mind


he was someone whose visit must absolutely be hidden.
And I am certain that from her perspective,

Hmm... That is weird.
I agree, Watson.
I only hope
This isn't the prelude to something more sinister.

BA-TMP
...

Oof...
ZLRR...
ズル…
ZLRR...
He's heavy!

RMM-MAGE

Whoops...

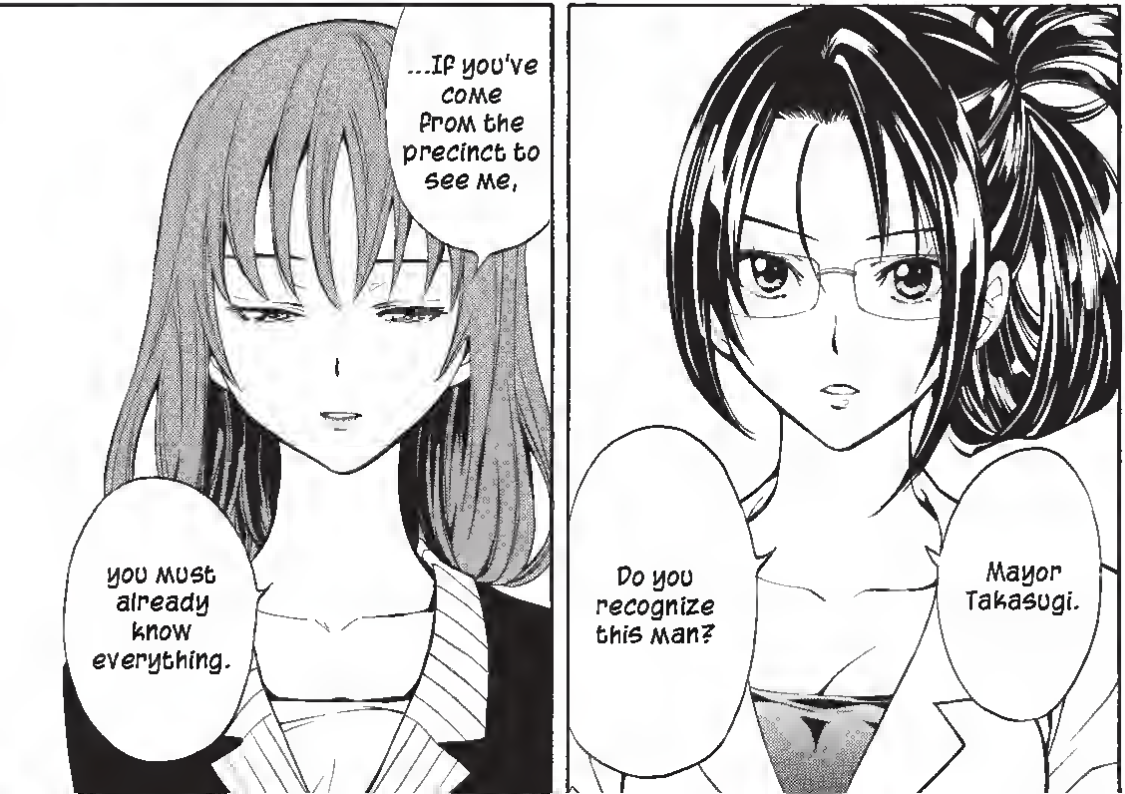
THUD

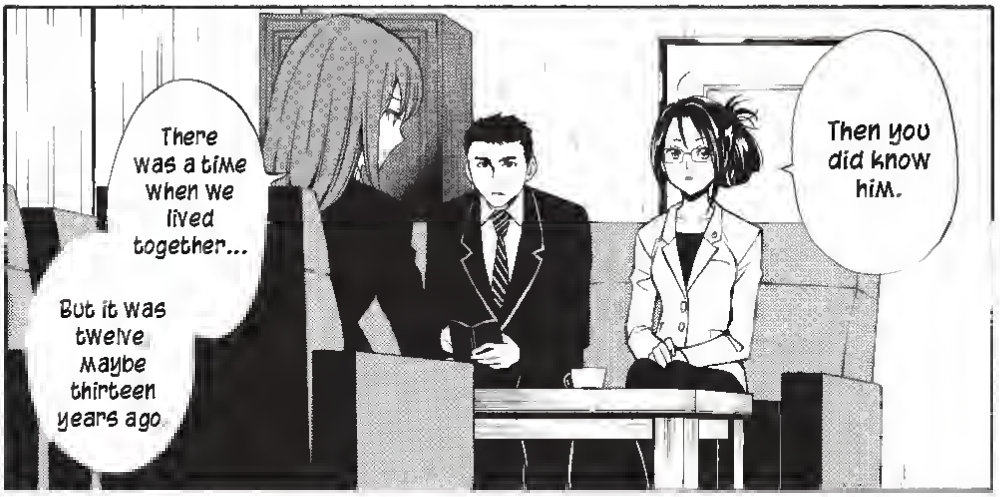
SHUT

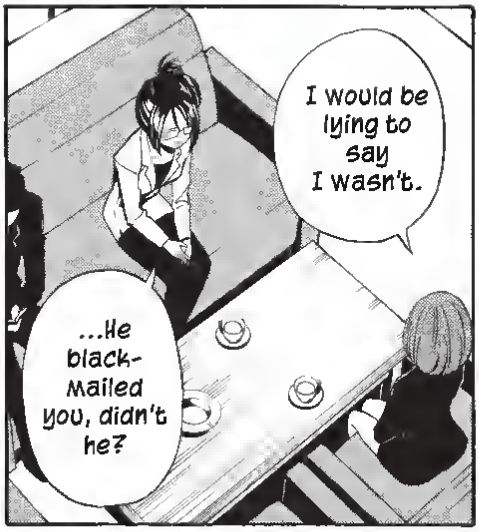
I'll have to get rid of this somewhere else.

The perfect resting place for that creep.
A trash heap.
VROOM

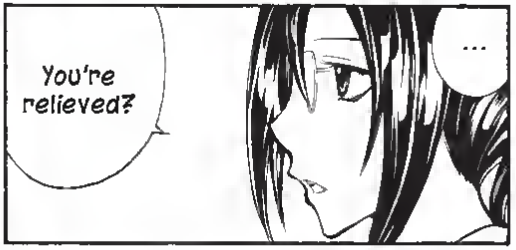
Case 7: ⚜ Hidden from the Press, Part 3

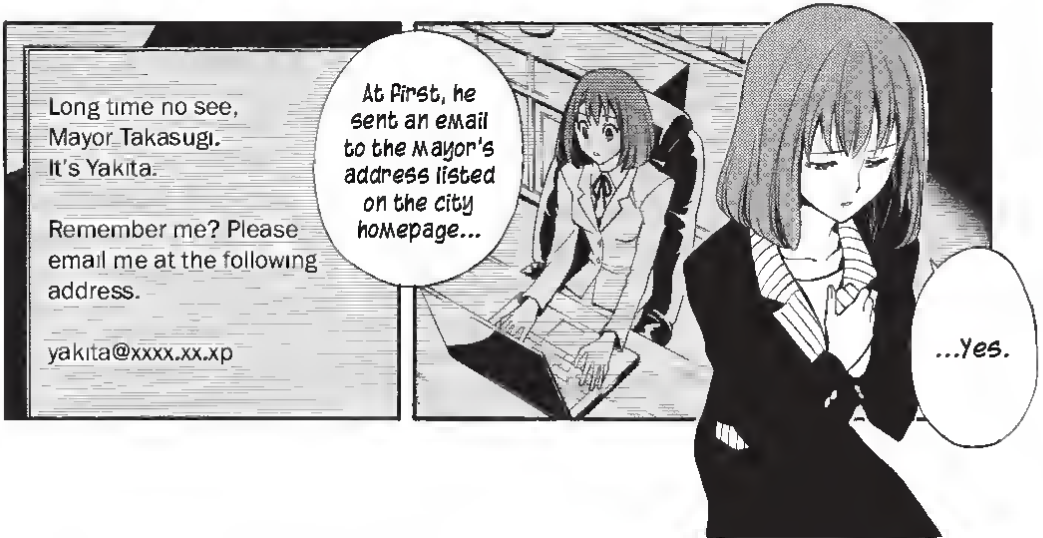



There was a time when we lived together...
But it was twelve maybe thirteen years ago.
Then you did know him.


I would be lying to say I wasn't.
...He black-mailed you, didn't he?

So he's dead.
I see...
SIGH..


You're relieved?
...


Long time no see, Mayor Takasugi. It's Yakita.
Remember me? Please email me at the following address.
yakita@xxxx.xx.xp
At first, he sent an email to the Mayor's address listed on the city homepage...
...Yes.

Am I a suspect?

Was it... murder, detective?
We're afraid so.

Only now he was sending pictures we took when we were together.
After that, he sent them directly to my cell phone.

I'm going to be honest.
We found a few photos with rather questionable content.
CLATTER

We found emails and other computer files indicating your relationship,
...When we investigated his home,
and proving that you had been in contact with each other.

You have nothing to worry about there.
The police have a duty of confidentiality. We will never leak those pictures.
THMP
Really?!
Oh, what a relief!

What are you going to do with them?!
If those go public, I... I...!

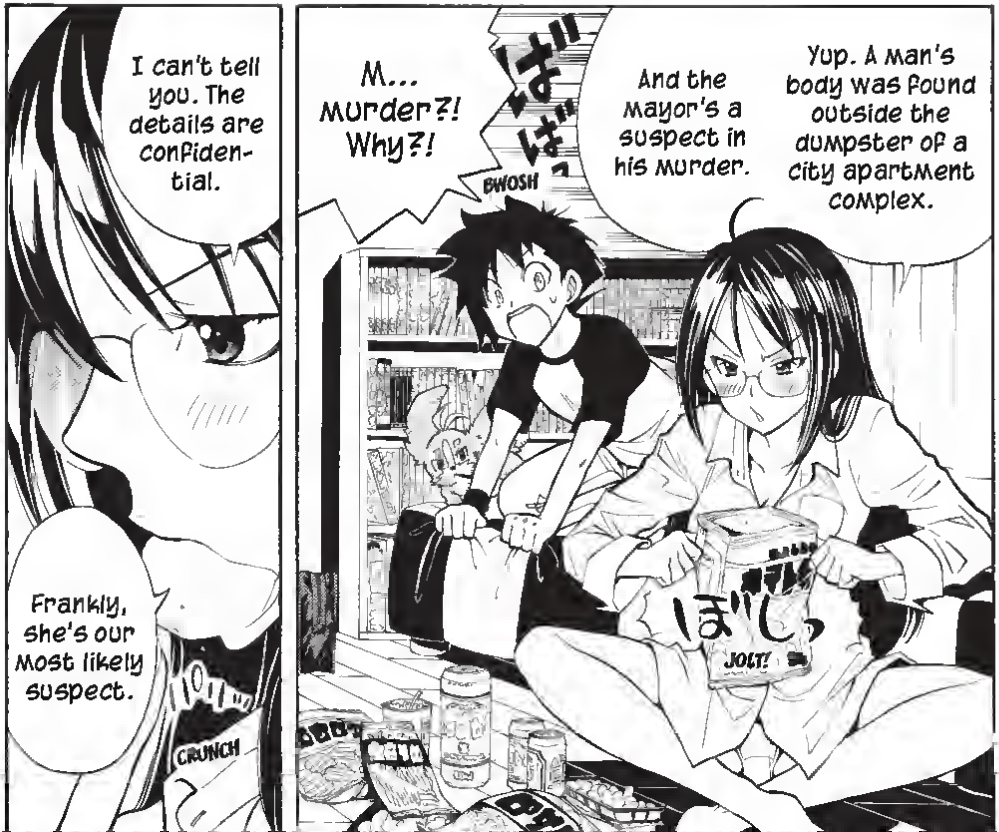
...You're very honest, Mayor Takasugi.
Of course.
GRIN
I believe honesty in situations like these is what proves the quality of a mayor... no, of all politicians.

Just a second...
...I was here, doing interviews.

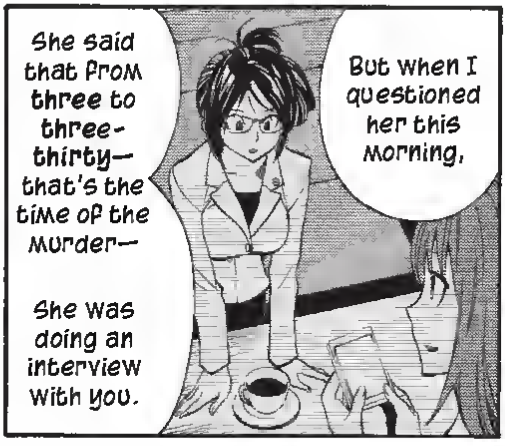
...Then answer me honestly.
Where were you, and what were you doing between three and three-thirty yesterday afternoon?

...
...May I ask who was interviewing you?
SMIRK
And then after that, I was still doing interviews until five o-clock.
From three to three forty-five.
And how long was that going on?
Interview with London Academy
School paper until 15:45
Interview with Mis...
...was with the students from London Academy's school paper.
Yes, of course. The first interview...
That means...
What...?

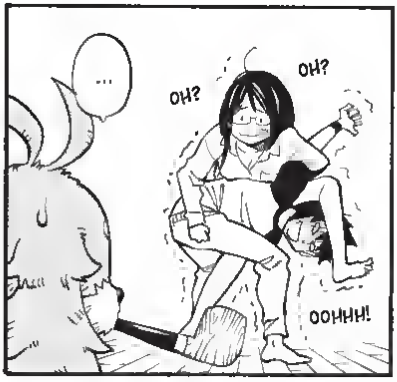
PERK
I'M the mayor's alibi witness?


I can't tell you. The details are confidential.
Frankly, she's our most likely suspect.
CRUNCH
M... Murder?! Why?!
BWOSH
And the mayor's a suspect in his murder.
Yup. A man's body was found outside the dumpster of a city apartment complex.
JOLT!

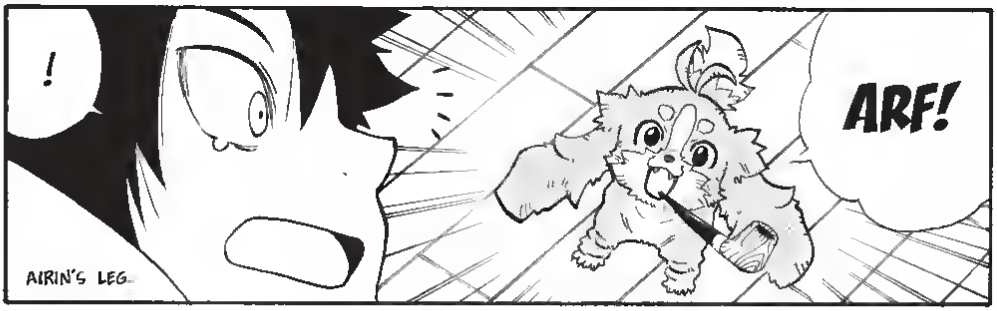
And in this one, you can even see the clock right there behind her.
HMMM...


She said that from three to three-thirty—that's the time of the murder—
She was doing an interview with you.
But when I questioned her this morning,

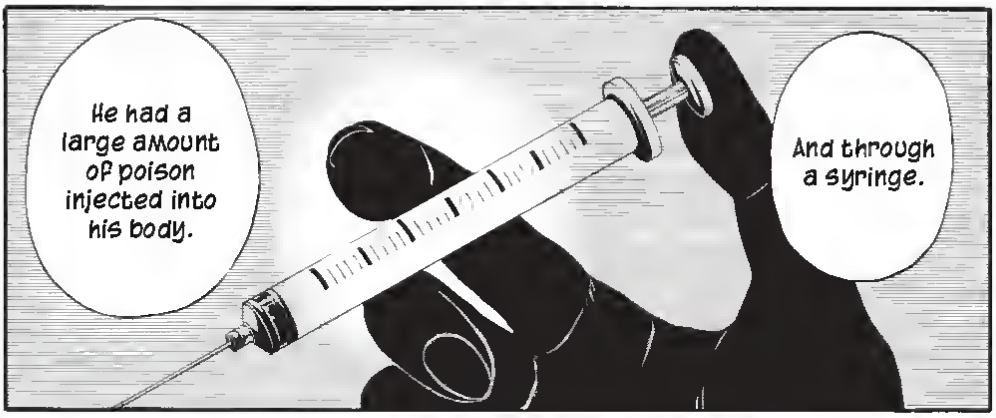
See? I have pictures.
Oh, yeah. That's right, she was.


...
OH?
OH?
OOHHH!

You just hate pretty girls, sis.
Too bad she's not the murderer you thought she was.
You're right...so her alibi is air-tight, huh.


!
AIRIN'S LEG
ARF!

But you found the body so soon
because it was dumped in a trash heap, right?
Are you sure about the time of death?
We found him really early.
They were able to get a pretty accurate estimate.
Arf!
By the way... What was the cause of death?
That's a good point...
It's like the murderer was saying, "Please find the body now!"
What?!
Poison.


He had a large amount of poison injected into his body.
And through a syringe.

But Yakita, the victim,
was injected here, in the leg.

What?
...
But there's one thing that gets me.

↑ JERKY

you would get him in the arm or the neck.
Normally, if you were going to inject poison into someone,

...To be honest,
Right, exactly.

Even if you suddenly decided to attack him, you wouldn't get him in the shin.
I see.
...

Call it detective's intuition...
MMM..
But there's something about that mayor.
...
Yakita being who he was,
anyone would have killed him.
...The bad feeling I had yesterday
May have been right on the mark.
What do you think about all this, Watson?
SHUT...
I dunno... She seemed like such a nice lady. And she's pretty.
THUD
And more than anything, I'M her alibi.
Why does that matter?
...
But you're right about there being a lot of weird things about her.

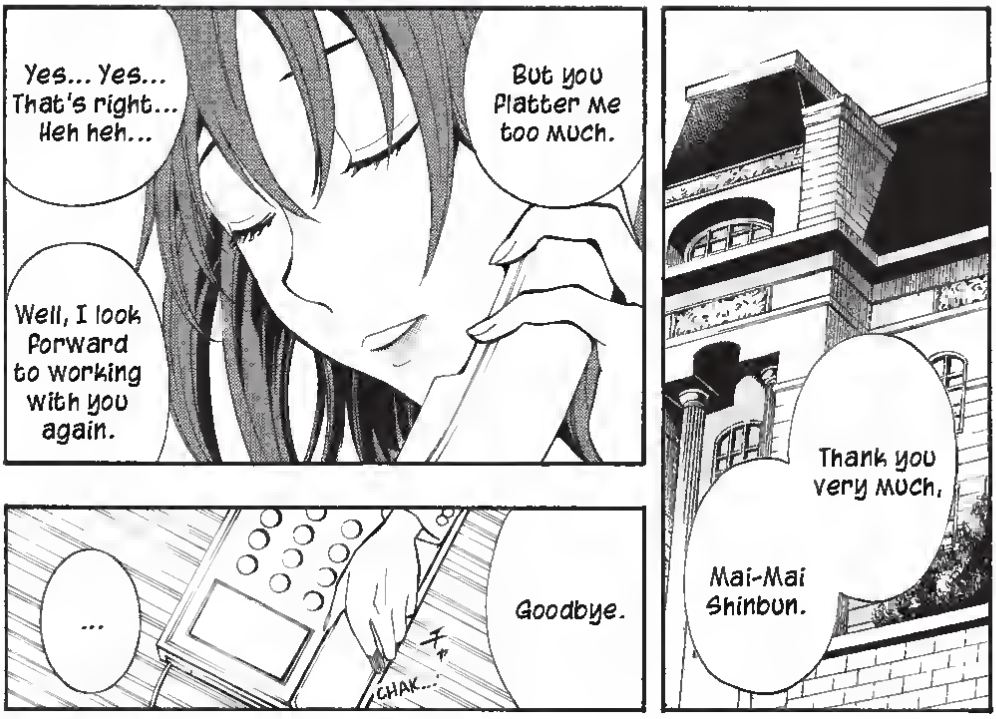
What do you want to do about it, Watson?
Quite so.

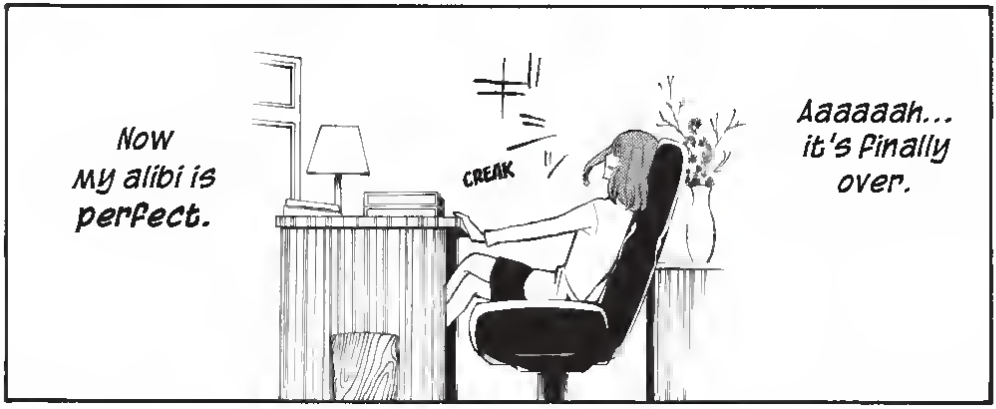
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
ポカポカ
BOTH!
Argh, this is really pissing me off!
And why is that?

That means she used us...in her murder.
Well, if she did do it,

I don't know, but...
...

I have to know the truth.

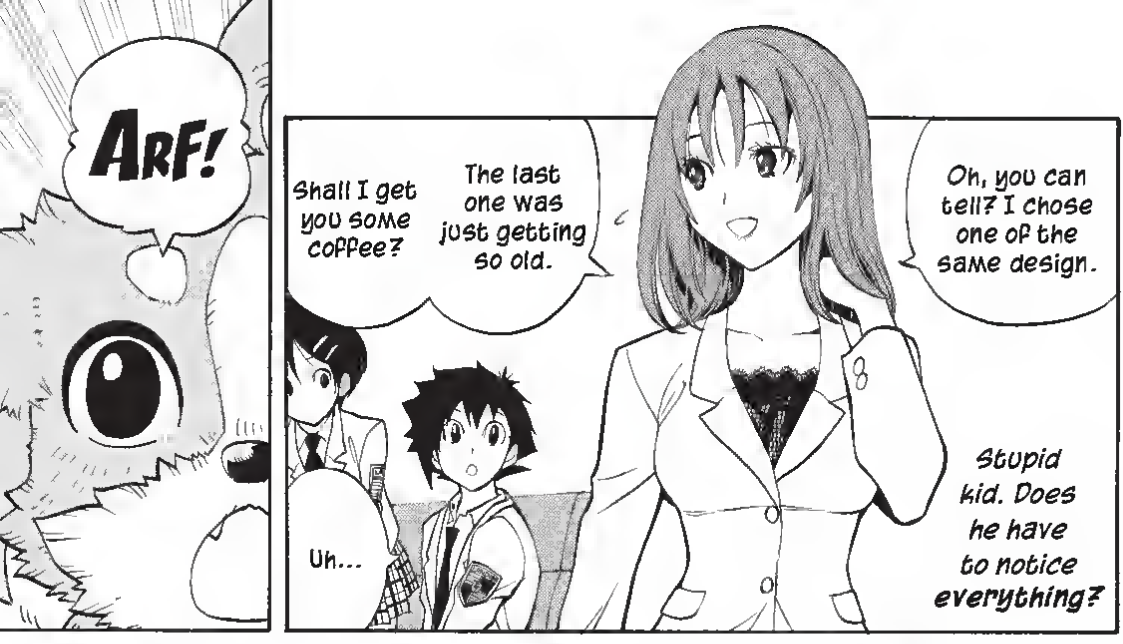

Yes... Yes... That's right... Heh heh...
But you flatter me too much.
Well, I look forward to working with you again.
...
CHAK...
Goodbye.
Thank you very much, Mai-Mai Shinbun.

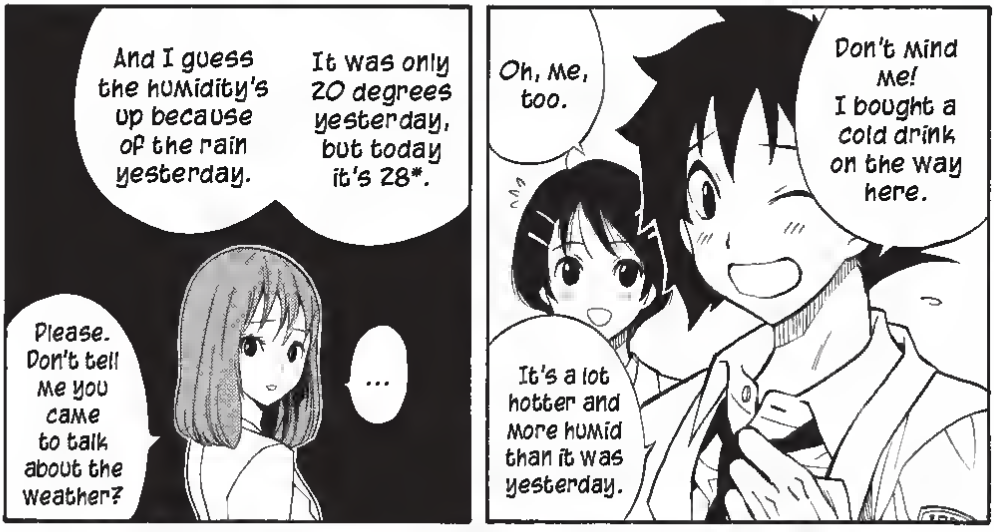

Now my alibi is perfect.
CREAK
Aaaaaah... it's finally over.

there's no way I could have committed a murder while I was taking interviews in my office.
Whatever black-hearted motive they may find,

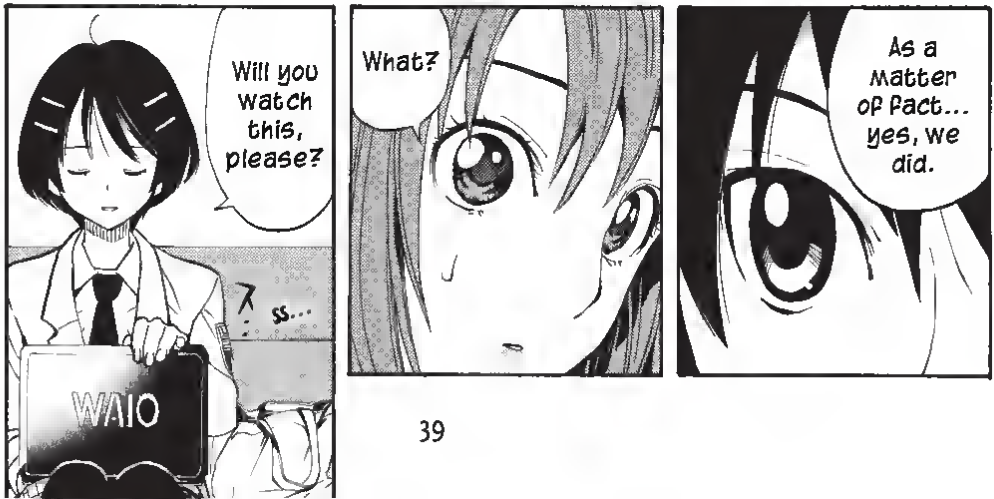
Like hell I'M going to let that bastard flea ruin my life.
Is this... the perfect crime?
... What?
This is the Mayor speaking.
!
BRR RING
A visitor?

Yesterday, I left my house without checking the weather report.
I ended up having to buy an umbrella at the corner store. So today I was more careful.
Silly, why would you bring an umbrella?
Oh, you know. The forecast said it was going to rain.
I'm sorry for the short notice, Ms. Mayor.
HAVE A SEAT.
That's okay. It was a slow day today.
But what brings you back here?
Looks like you got a new sofa.
ARF!
!
TWITCH
!

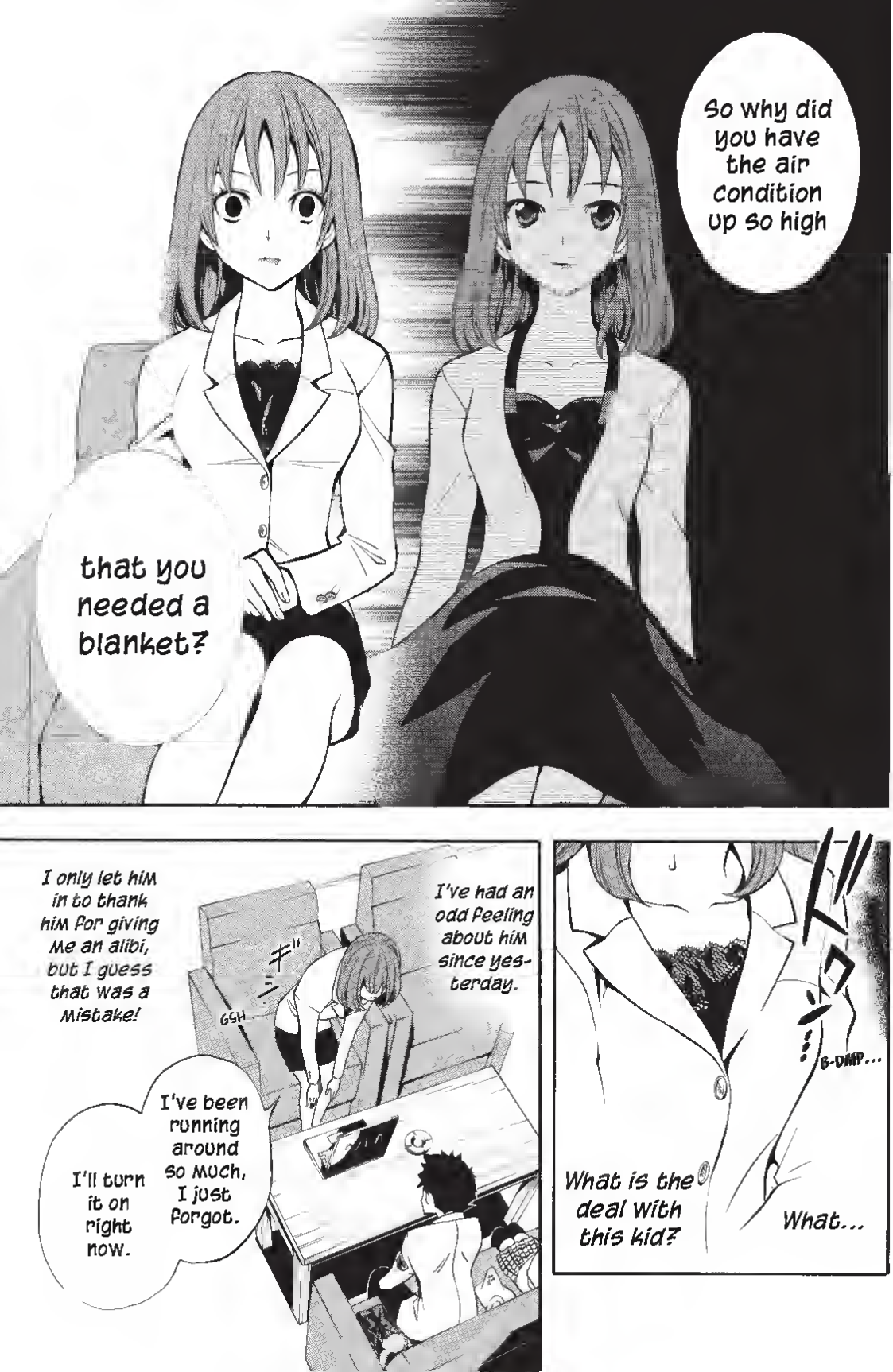

ARF!
Shall I get you some coffee?
The last one was just getting so old.
Oh, you can tell? I chose one of the same design.
Uh...
Stupid kid. Does he have to notice everything?


And I guess the humidity's up because of the rain yesterday.
It was only 20 degrees yesterday, but today it's 28*.
Please. Don't tell me you came to talk about the weather?
...
Oh, me, too.
Don't mind me! I bought a cold drink on the way here.
It's a lot hotter and more humid than it was yesterday.

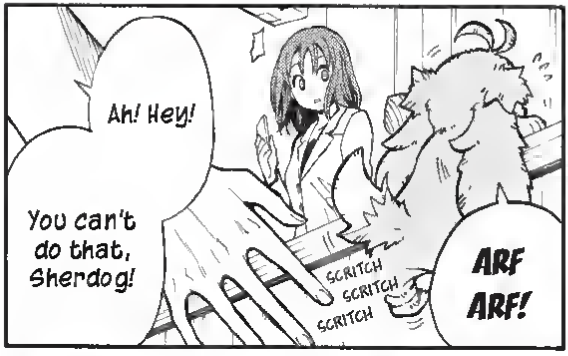
*about 68°F and 82°F.

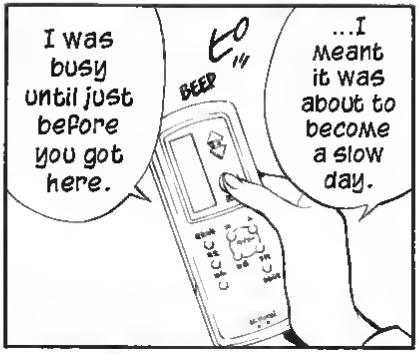


Oh, that's okay. Leave it on.
I want to dehumidify the room.
Oh! The air conditioner is on! Let me just turn that off for you!
So where would you like to begin?
It's a little chilly. Must be the rain.
This is...!
...!
GASP
And yesterday
it wasn't nearly this hot.
...
So why isn't the air conditioner on?
It's strange... This room is a lot more humid than it was yesterday.

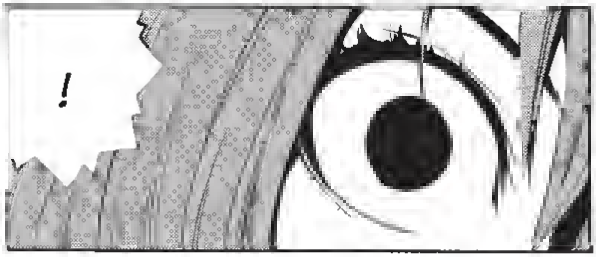

So why did you have the air condition up so high
that you needed a blanket?
I only let him in to thank him for giving me an alibi, but I guess that was a mistake!
I've had an odd feeling about him since yesterday.
GSH
I'll turn it on right now.
I've been running around so much, I just forgot.
What is the deal with this kid?
What...
G-DMP...

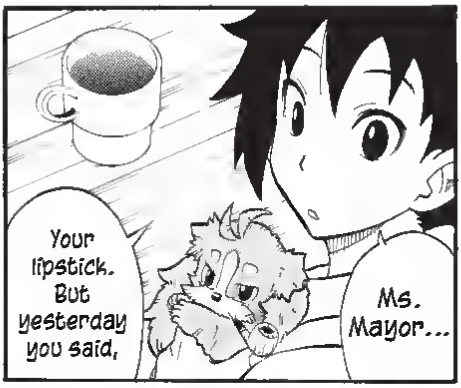
Huh? But just a minute ago you said
it's been a slow day today.

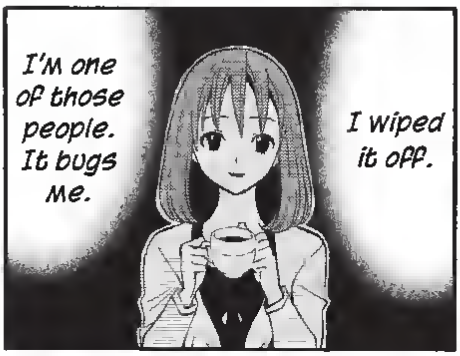

Ah! Hey!
You can't do that, Sherdog!
SCRITCH SCRITCH SCRITCH
ARF ARF!

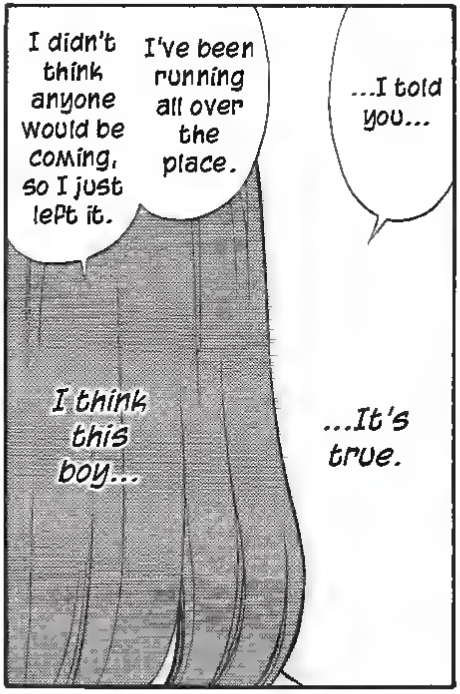

I was busy until just before you got here.
BEEP
...I meant it was about to become a slow day.

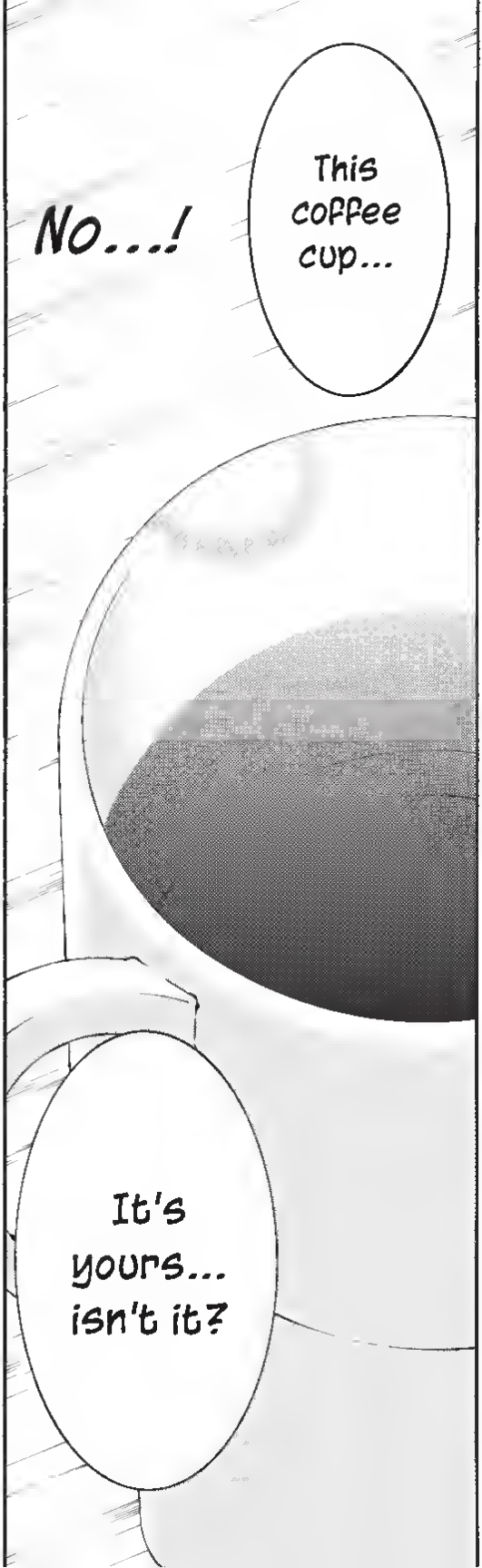
...Huh?


!

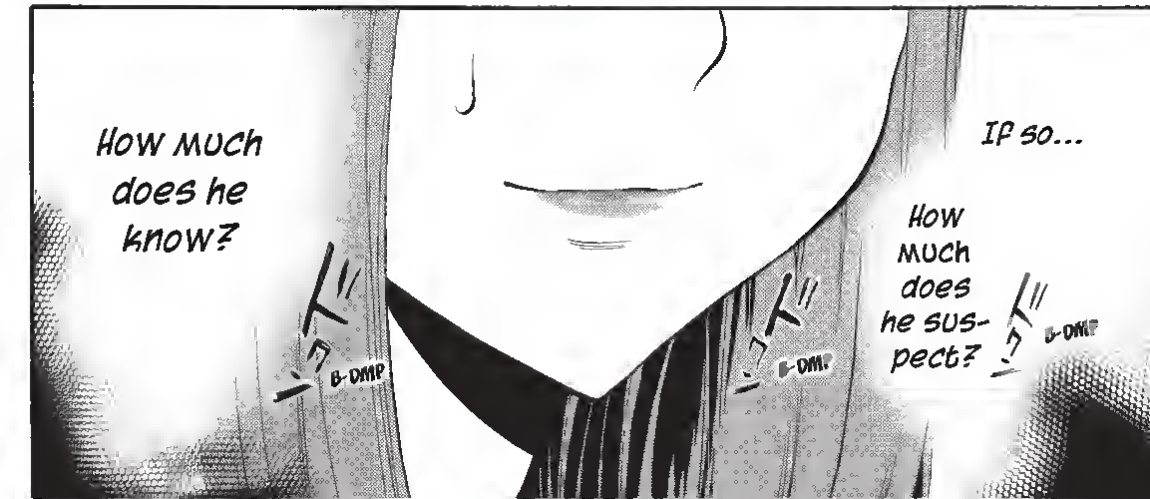

Ms. Mayor...
Your lipstick. But yesterday you said,

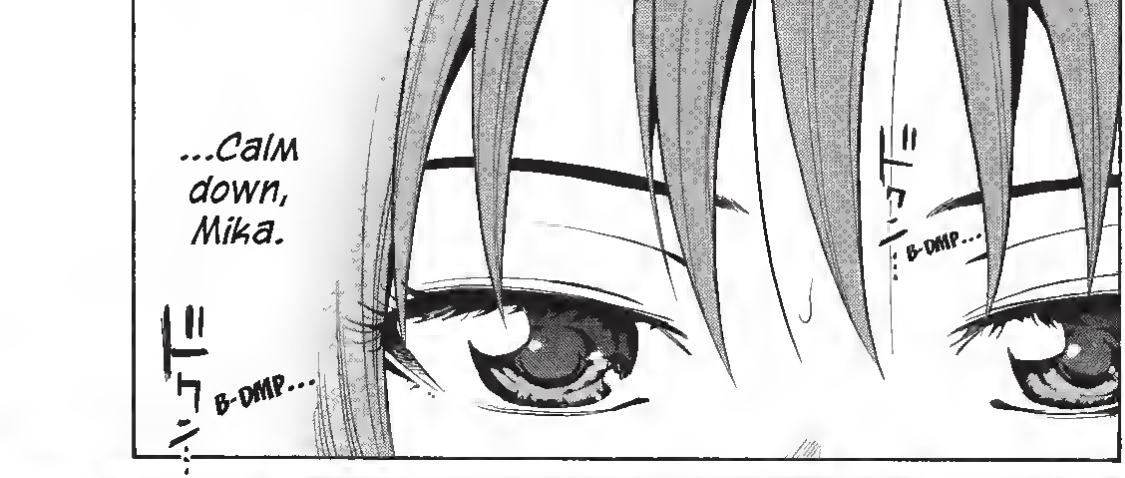

I wiped it off.
I'm one of those people. It bugs me.


...It's true.
...I told you...
I've been running all over the place.
I didn't think anyone would be coming, so I just left it.
I think this boy...


It's yours... isn't it?
No...!
This coffee cup...

...Me.
Sus-
pects...


How much does he know?
B-DMP
B-DMP
If so...
How much does he sus-pect?
B-DMP

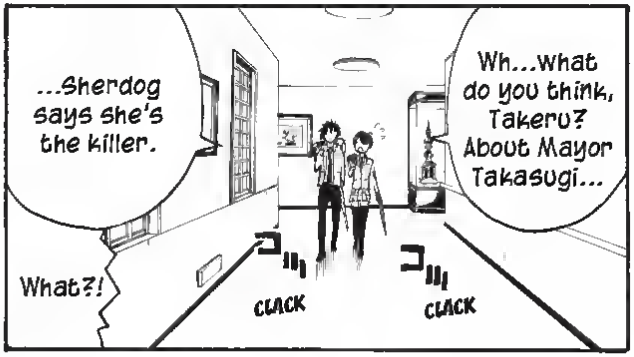


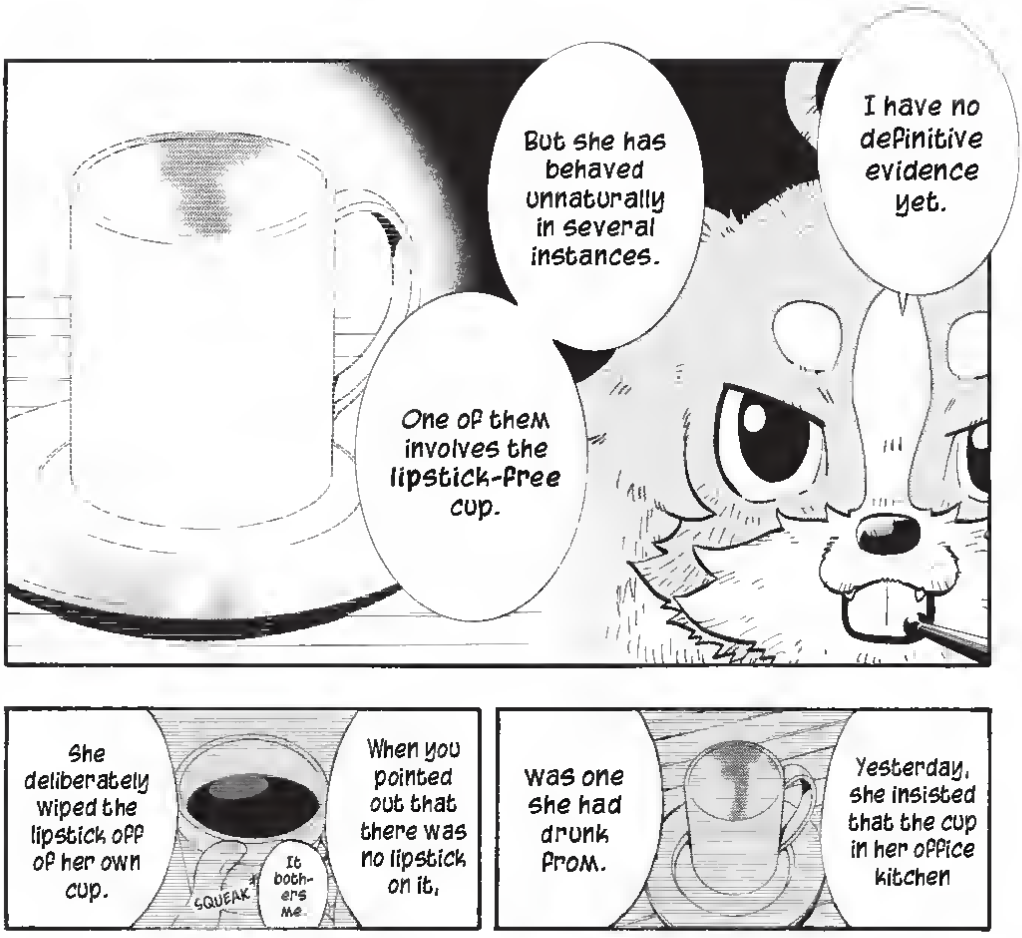
Case 7: ⚜ Hidden from the Press, Part 4

I crawled my way to the top from rock-bottom, coughing up blood as I went.
I have nothing to fear.
I'll make sure to see you some other time... okay?
Excuse me.
BOW
Huh? Oh, yes, I'll be seeing you.
Well. That was easier than I expected.
10
SHUT...
GRRR...
...
We understand. We're sorry for just dropping in like that.

She is almost certainly our killer.
But that kid definitely knows something.
If he ever tries to stand in my way,
That's when I'll...
Watson.

What makes you so sure?
HMM.


...Sherdog says she's the killer.
What?!
Wh...What do you think, Takeru? About Mayor Takasugi...
CLACK
CLACK


I have no definitive evidence yet.
But she has behaved unnaturally in several instances.
One of them involves the lipstick-free cup.

She deliberately wiped the lipstick off of her own cup.
SQUEAK
It bothers me.
When you pointed out that there was no lipstick on it,

Was one she had drunk from.
Yesterday, she insisted that the cup in her office kitchen

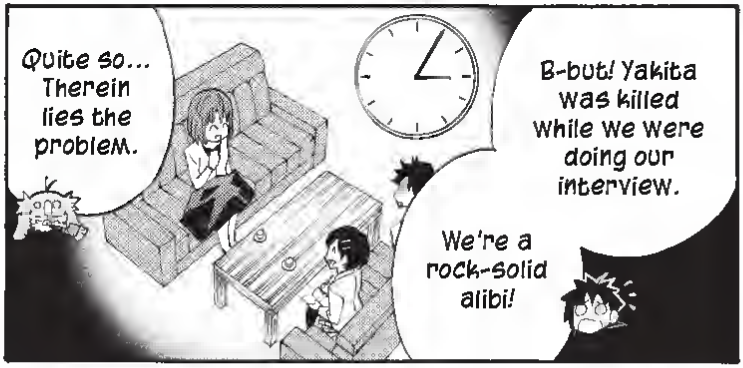
There was a cup on her desk with an obvious lipstick mark!
Oh! But today...
Exactly. She has never been the type to pay any mind to such things.

I get it!
From that, we can infer that she had some reason
to hide the fact that she had a visitor.
Is he really talking to him?
In fact, I stole a peek at Irene's photos of the victim...
You...You don't miss a thing, do you...?
Ichirō Yakita was his name.
And that face did indeed belong to the villain who kicked me yesterday.
...So you're saying that Mayor Takasugi really didn't want anyone to know
And that means...
that Yakita had seen her.

Yakita was in her office a little while before we came to interview her.
YO!
And the mayor tried to hide it.
IT'S MINE ♡
THAT CUP?
And then the next morning, they found Yakita's body. ...Does that cover it?

That covers it, Watson.
How...how could she not be the killer?!
...
HMM, HMM.
PAT
LONDON

I got it!
PAT


Quite so... Therein lies the problem.
B-but! Yakita was killed while we were doing our interview.
We're a rock-solid alibi!

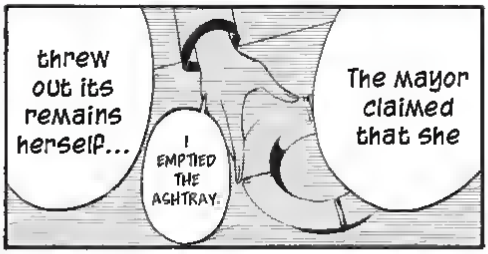
Yakita already had someone out to get him.
Maybe this is what happened?
He wanted to get some money out of the mayor, so he could skip the country.
¥
So he disguised himself as an electrician to come visit her!
Yeah, so she hid it, because she knew it would turn into a scandal.
OH, CRAP!
NEWS
I get it! But the other guy caught him after the visit and then killed him.
But the Mayor has shown some rather unnatural behavior
that your theory fails to explain.
Huh?
Yes, the pieces do fit together.
You-you're a genius, Miki!
HNOH うわぁ

And...
she had the air conditioner on exceedingly high yesterday, but only yesterday.
For example,
But what's so unnatural about that?
Yeah.
the mayor sat on the sofa.
Did you notice? When we visited yesterday,
Host
Guest
Guest
Host
Host
she will invite the guests to sit on the sofa, while taking one of the individual armchairs for herself.
Usually, when a hostess entertains multiple guests,

I couldn't say for certain,
but I am convinced it has some connection to the unusually high air conditioning.
Some connection...
Hey, I think you're right! I'M pretty sure that's how my dad does it!
But maybe the Mayor just does things differently.
As evidence, I remind you that today, she sat in an armchair.
I think not.
AWW, I WISH I COULD HEAR IT, TOO
Oh yeah... But why would she do that?
When we visited yesterday,
the Mayor's office still...
Huh? What?
There's more, Watson.

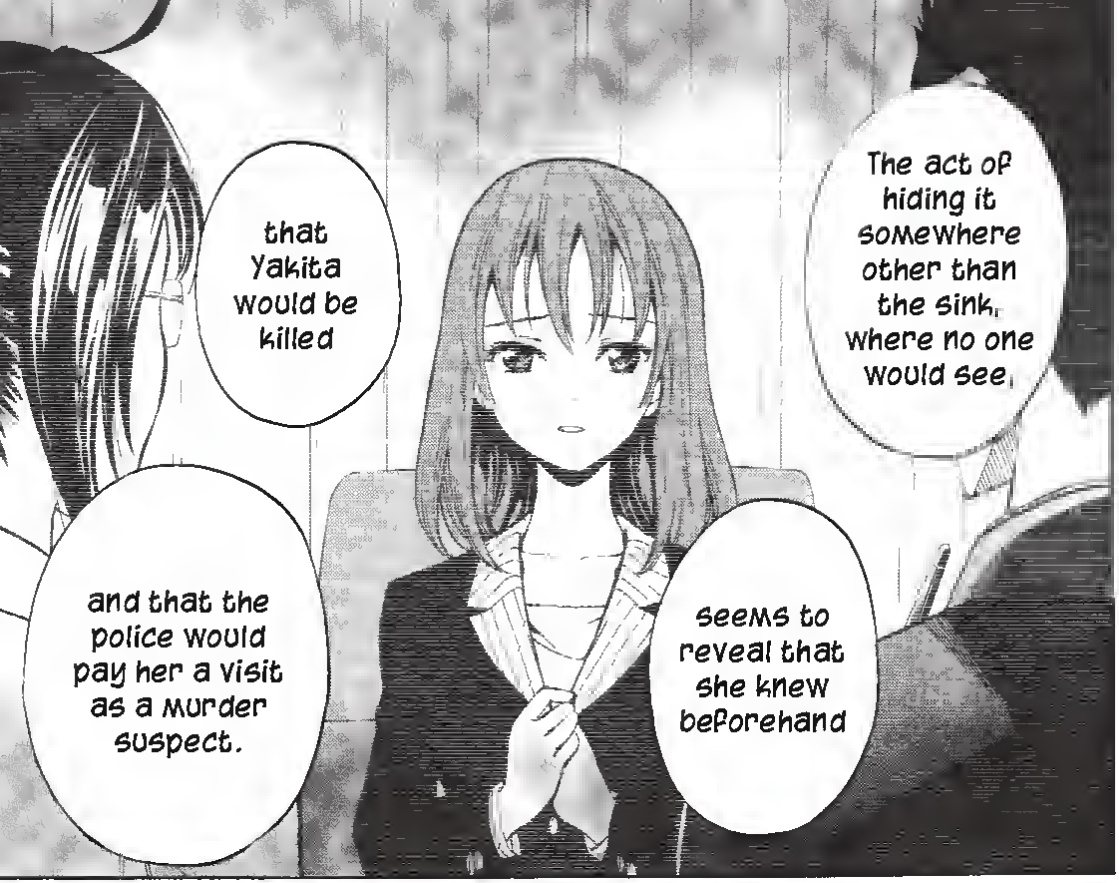
I am positive it must have come from a cigarette belonging to Yakita.
...smelled of tobacco.

She disposed of them somewhere no one would see.
Most likely,


threw out its remains herself...
I EMPTIED THE ASHTRAY.
The mayor claimed that she

Huh? What does that mean?
SLRP SLRP
But there were no cigarette butts in the sink.

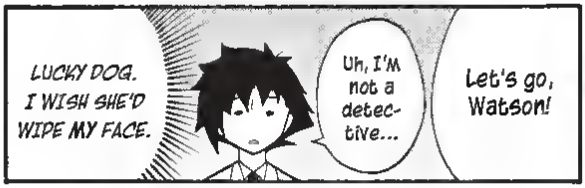
She wouldn't have been that meticulous about hiding the cigarette.
...!
If, for argument's sake, the possibility of a scandal
was the only reason she lied about Yakita's visit...


The act of hiding it somewhere other than the sink, where no one would see,
that Yakita would be killed
and that the police would pay her a visit as a murder suspect.
seems to reveal that she knew beforehand

Ask around!
WIPE WIPE
When there isn't enough evidence, there is only one thing a detective can do.

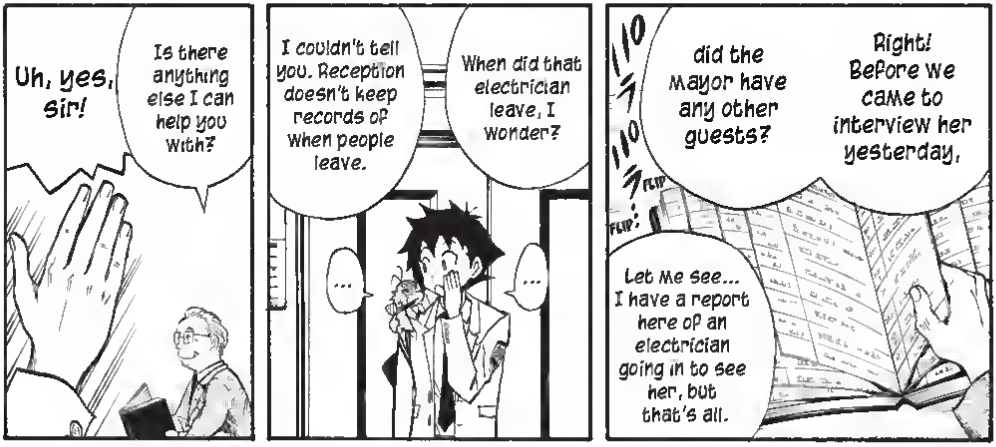
...
It sure does...

We don't have anything to prove that Yakita was in the Mayor's office.
But where's the proof?
We can't just go to the police and tell them that my dog saw him there.
BAM

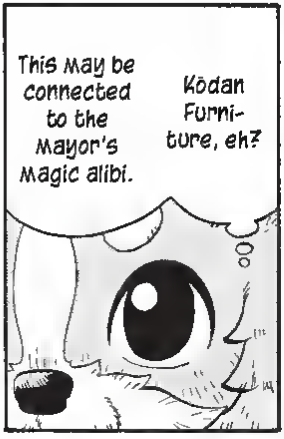

LUCKY DOG. I WISH SHE'D WIPE MY FACE.
Uh, I'M not a detec-tive...
Let's go, Watson!

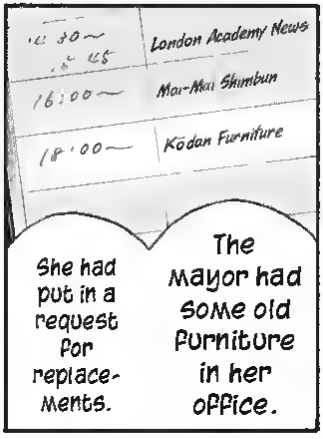
Deputy Mayor's Office
I want to write an article about Mayor Takasugi's daily schedule.
BUT SHE'S VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW, SO...
Will you please answer my questions?
Please, Mr. Deputy!

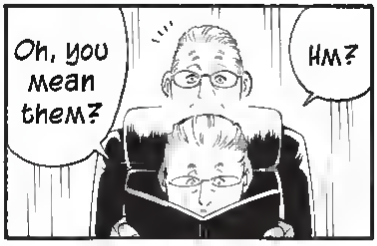
So what would you like to know?
QUITE THE COQUETTE...
Thank you so much!
Yes, yes ♡
The Mayor did accept your interview, after all, so I don't see a problem.

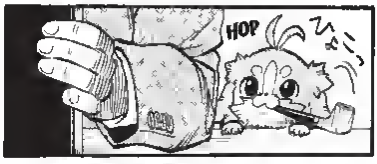

Uh, yes, sir!
Is there anything else I can help you with?
I couldn't tell you. Reception doesn't keep records of when people leave.
When did that electrician leave, I wonder?
...
...
did the Mayor have any other guests?
Right! Before we came to interview her yesterday,
FLIP
FLIP
Let me see... I have a report here of an electrician going in to see her, but that's all.

Where there any other tradesman here?
After the people who came after us?
There would have been two or three of them, I think?


This may be connected to the Mayor's Magic alibi.
Kōdan Furniture, eh?


London Academy News
Mai-Mai Shimbun
Kōdan Furniture
She had put in a request for replacements.
The Mayor had some old furniture in her office.


Oh, you mean them?
Hm?


HOP

...They're going to write an article with that?
WHATEVER. SHE'S CUTE
You're very welcome.
That's all we need. Thank you very much.

I, Sherlock Holmes, will take full responsibilty.
Worry not.
How would that help? You're a dog!
DUN
Call the furniture place and tell them I'm from city hall?
...Do I really have to do this, Sherdog?
GLUM

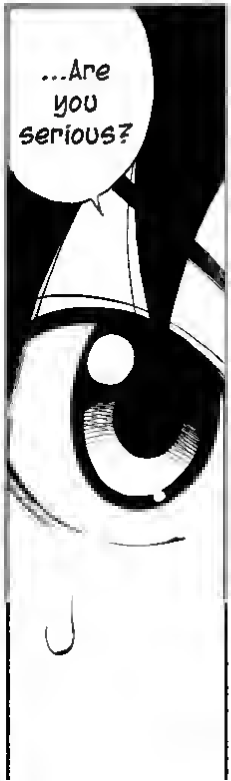
Wha?
Uh, thi... th-th-this is c-c-city h-h-hall...
FLAIL
Kōdan Furniture.
FLAIL
...
...
...
BRRRING BRRRING

It's just like I said, you mean.
I...I know, right?
It's just like you said, Takeru!
Thank you very much!
BEEP
SMOOTH
...Yes, I am responsible for London City Hall's interior design.
It's about the furniture you delivered to the Mayor's office yesterday... Yes...

We can tear the Mayor's alibi to pieces!
A-anyway! Now!
Indeed
Watson!
Huh?
FWOFF
ばふっ
PATTER PATTER
Now we just need to prove that Yakita came to the Mayor's office yesterday.
DRIP
DRIP
Oh!
It really did start raining.
The weather guy was right!
ZSHHH

What?!
This... this is cigarette ash!

Yeah...
The final act approaches, Watson.

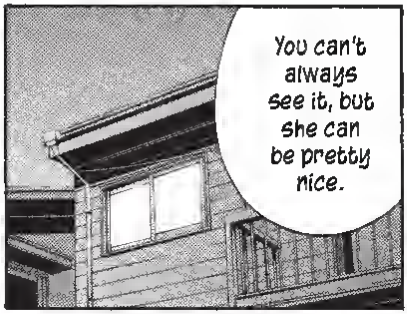

...Are you serious?

But I don't smoke!
My sister would kill me!
I know that. This ash is most likely...

...
!

Hey, Sherdog.
Maybe we should just tell Airin-nechan.
And ask her to help us.
But we're up against the Mayor.
ZSHHH...
And she's also a cold-blooded killer.
What?
Like, about you, Sherdog.
You know?
Tell her?
We told Miki, and she understood.
Maybe Airin would understand, too.

...
Perhaps the time has come..
Quite so...

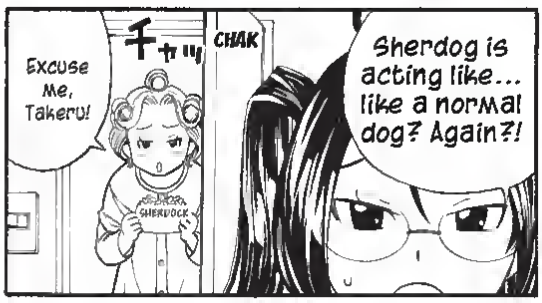

You can't always see it, but she can be pretty nice.

Mrk! I-I am not!
What are you so nervous about?
ARE YOU AFRAID SHE'LL HATE YOU?
It'll be fine! She'll still love you!

スッ
ウロ
DOOOOOM
WELL?
SLEEP DEPRIVED
TIRED FROM WORK.
SECOND BOTTLE
WHAT'S THIS IM-PORTANT THING YOU WANT TO DISCUSS WITH ME?

Uh... um, you see...
GULP ゴ"
The puppy. What about him?
A... arf.
イラ IRK
イラ IRK
I'M starting to think this is a bad idea.
Yeah, well, actually, it's about Sherdog.
↑AND SHE HAS LOW BLOOD SUGAR FROM DIETING
So what is it?
B-DMP...
B-DMP...
B-DMP...
I don't know if a grown woman would believe me if I told her out of the blue like this...
The truth is!
The truth is, Sherdog is actually—!
ARF!

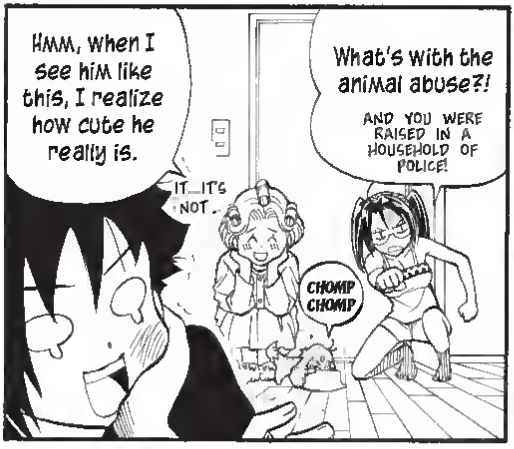
ワン ワン!!
ARF ARF!
CHOMP
CHOMP
カジカジ
CHOMP
...
No! Not again!
Sher...
He-he's acting like...
So what do you want?



Case 7: ⚜ Hidden from the Press, Part 5

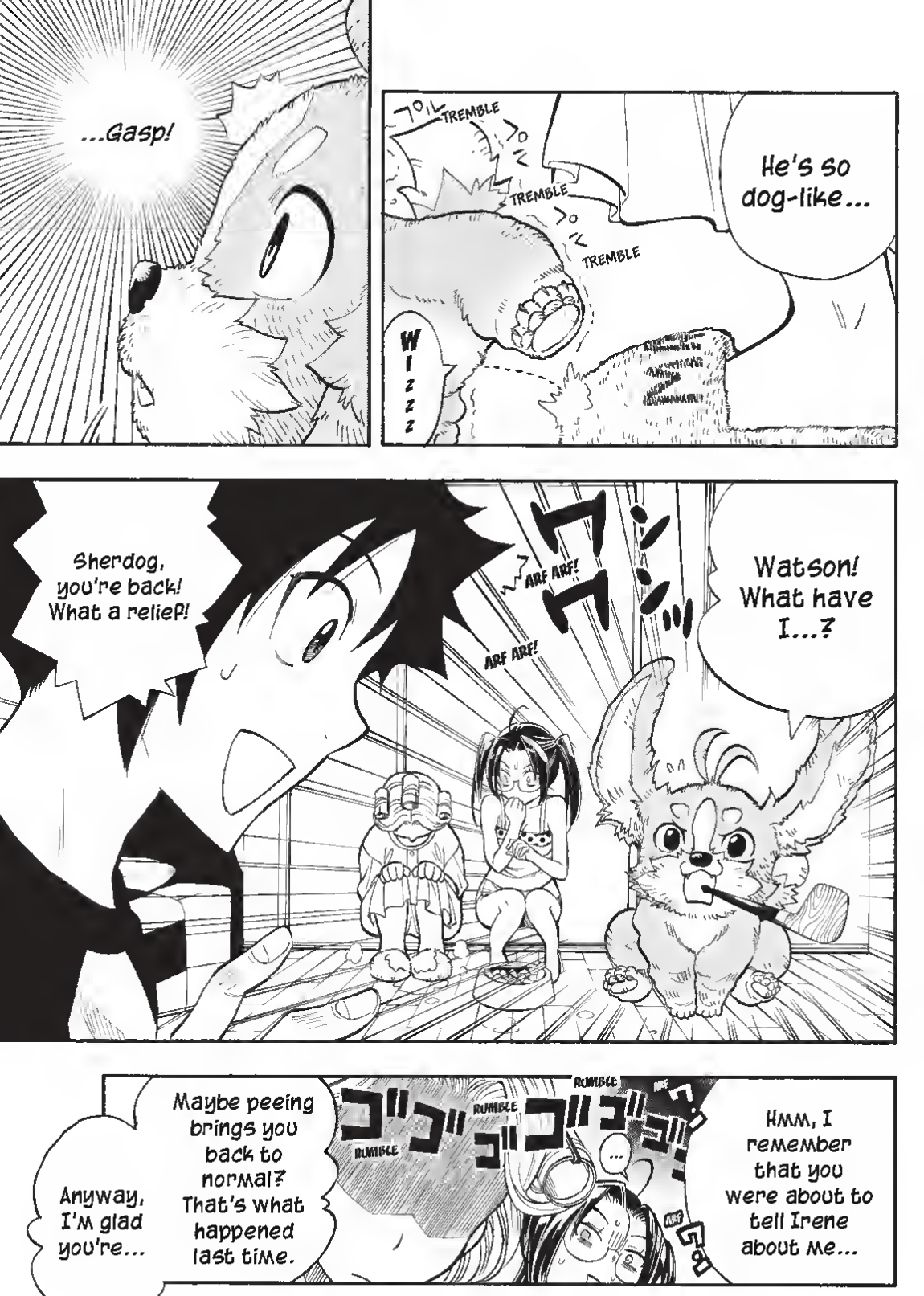
Just like before...
He's a full-on dog!
ARF!
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

Guess I'll try...
What do I do?! How can I get him back to normal?!

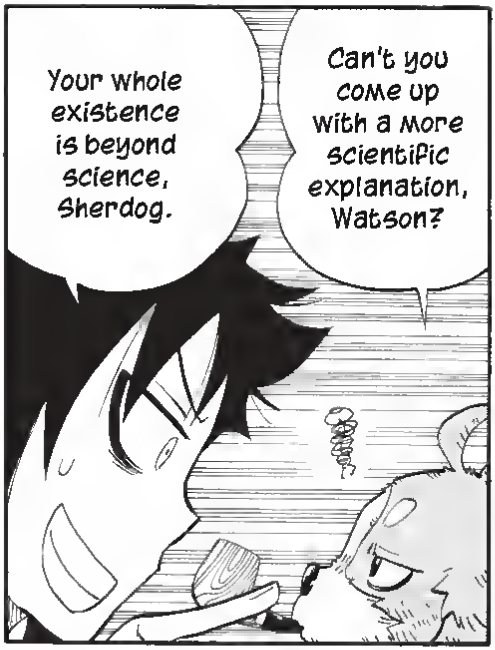

Hmm, when I see him like this, I realize how cute he really is.
What's with the animal abuse?!
AND YOU WERE RAISED IN A HOUSEHOLD OF POLICE!
IT...IT'S NOT.
CHOMP CHOMP

WHOOSH
Shock treatment!

WHAM!
Will you stop that?!

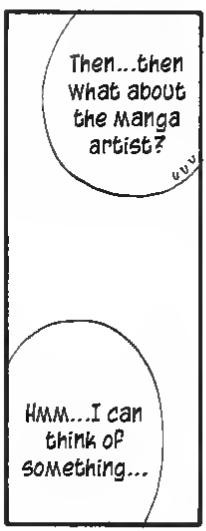

...Gasp!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
He's so dog-like...
Wizzz
Sherdog, you're back! What a relief!
ARF ARF!
ARF ARF!
Watson! What have I...?
Anyway, I'm glad you're...
Maybe peeing brings you back to normal? That's what happened last time.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
Hmm, I remember that you were about to tell Irene about me...

げっそり…
DRAINED...
Why me...?
In any case...
THOROUGHLY CHEWED OUT


Your whole existence is beyond science, Sherdog.
Can't you come up with a more scientific explanation, Watson?

But apparently it wasn't.
I lost consciousness after he threw me against the wall. I thought that was why I reverted.
When we confronted the manga artist the other day,

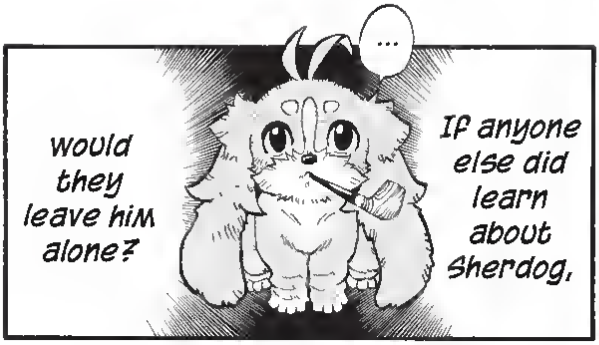
What kind of training would you be...? A... anyway...maybe it's when you wish you could be a dog again?
I would never wish that for even a millisecond.
I STARTED OUT HUMAN YOU KNOW
HMMM...
HMMM
Maybe you revert to being a dog when you're not feeling well?
Even though I am a dog now, I have maintained my daily training regimen. I haven't caught so much as a cold.


Then...then what about the manga artist?
HMM...I can think of something...

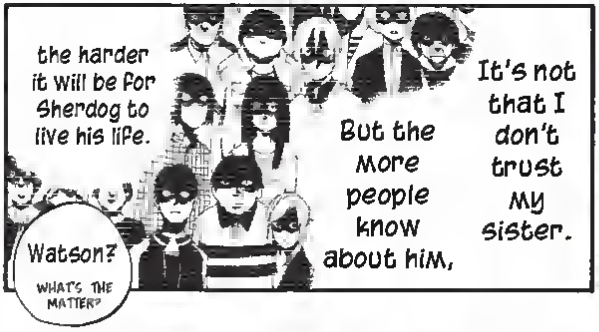
was our attempt to tell Irene about my true identity?
Huh?
Perhaps the cause
Gasp...!

Right... Maybe he threw you at the wall
because he sensed something about you.
Whenever you and I whispered to each other.
The scoundrel would stare at us suspiciously
At the time, I could hardly believe he would have realized the truth...but Maybe...
Thus dispelling all his suspicions.
Exactly. But then I truly became a dog.
B...but what about Miki?
I told her all about you. She knows everything...
Yes, quite so...
Whatever cause we may think of, we can't prove anything at this point in time. ...However.
It may have something to do with age, or...
It doesn't hurt for Miss Miki to know, but we can't tell Irene...

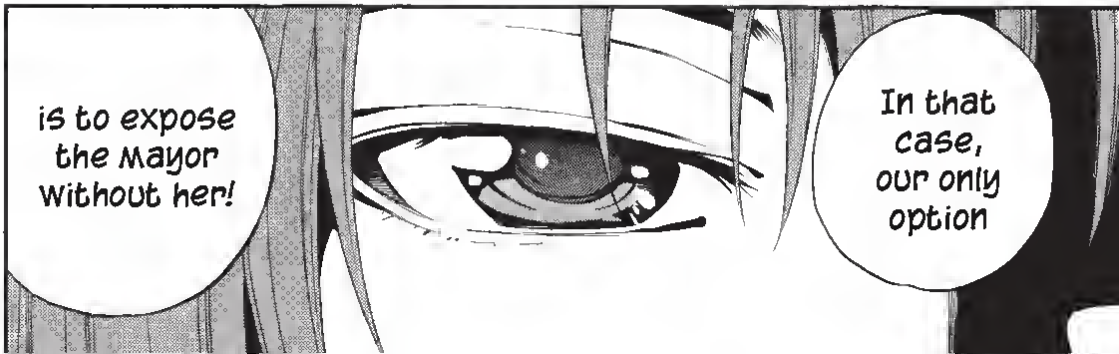
What...?
There is no way of knowing when I might disappear.
If the manga artist or Irene had discovered my identity,
I may have lost my self permanently.
The one thing I can say
is that my existence is more unstable than I had thought.


...
would they leave him alone?
If anyone else did learn about Sherdog,

Th—
That won't happen! Everything'll be fine!
But...
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT


the harder it will be for Sherdog to live his life.
But the more people know about him,
It's not that I don't trust my sister.
Watson?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

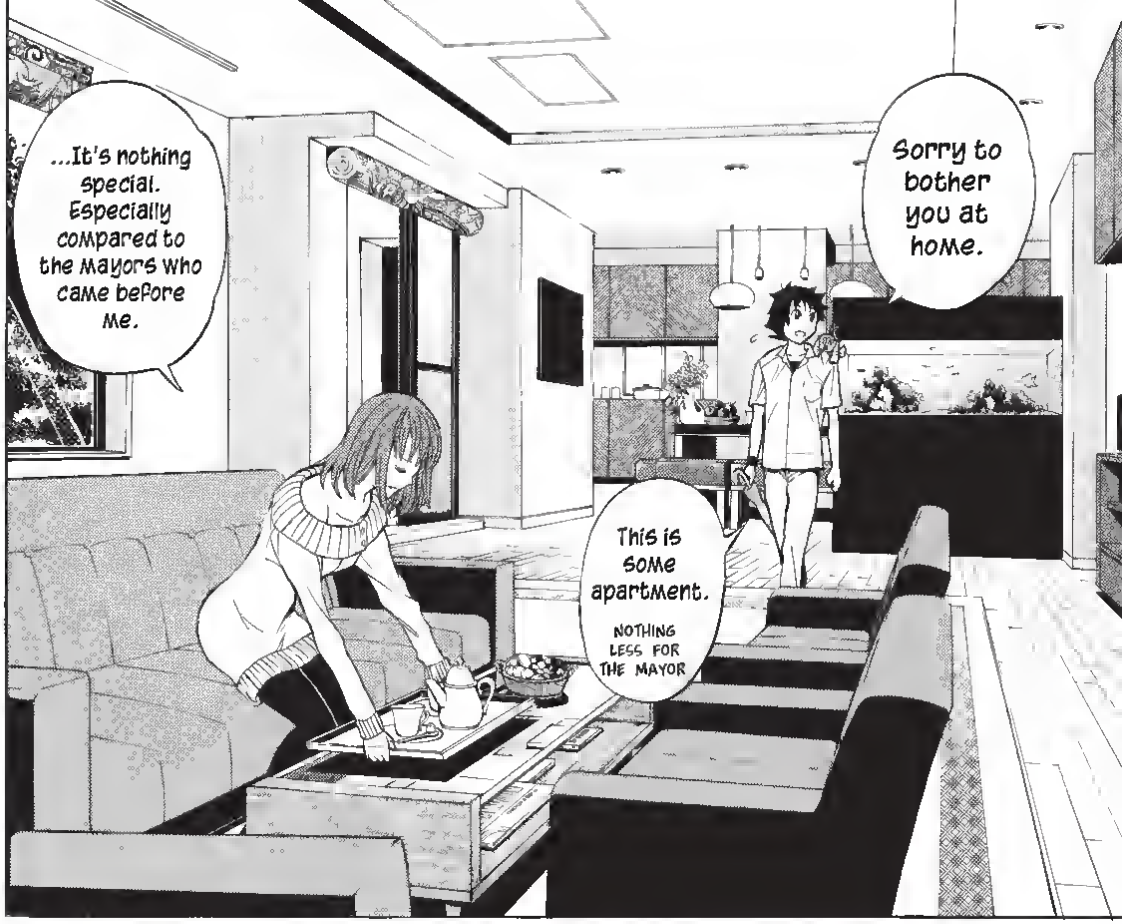
...So anyway! Looks like we'd better forget about asking my sister for help!
Indeed.


In that case, our only option is to expose the Mayor without her!

...
I can't do that.
There's no telling what she'll do to us if we screw it up.
Can we do that? ...She's the Mayor. ...She's the most powerful person in the city.
THE LAST BOSS
Quite so. Then would you rather leave things as they are?
What should we do, Sherdog?
SMIRK
Indeed.
There is only one thing we can do.

DING DONG
?
DING DONG
Ugh!
Can't I at least spend my day off in pea—

It's not even raining today, so why...?
B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP
Oh...! Ms. Mayor, it's Takeru Wajima.
There's something I really needed to talk to you about.
...Hello?
The only reason he'd be here is that he suspects...
Him again..!
IRK...
?!
That vinyl umbrella...
I feel like that kid would chase me down anywhere.
I'd be wasting my time if I pretended not to be here.
GH...
lock
...I'll let you in.
And in that case, I might as well...
Sorry for bringing my dog with me.
That's okay. What brings you here today?


Sorry to bother you at home.
...It's nothing special. Especially compared to the Mayors who came before me.
This is some apartment.
NOTHING LESS FOR THE MAYOR

Takeru Wajima-kun.
I've done a bit of homework on you, too.
GRIN

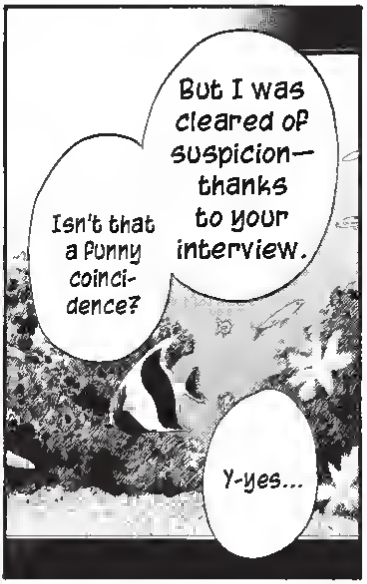
But you're so young, and you did all this work on your own, right? That's amazing.
Oh.
KACHAK

You've done your homework on me. ...You're a credit to your school paper.
GLUP GLUP
Oh, no...

I understand you're the younger brother of the Violent Crimes inspector who came to interrogate me.
!

She did seem to think of me as her prime suspect...
And when I mentioned London Academy's school paper, I couldn't help but notice her surprise... so of course I wondered.
Wajima isn't a very common name.

...
But maybe it was fate.
What do you mean?


But I was cleared of suspicion— thanks to your interview.
Isn't that a funny coinci-dence?
Y-yes...

I'll be honest with you.
Mayor Takasugi. I think you killed Ichirō Yakita.
...Do you...
...have any idea what you're saying?
SHUDDER

I belong to a police family. I couldn't just let it go!
...I do.
I came here to learn the truth.

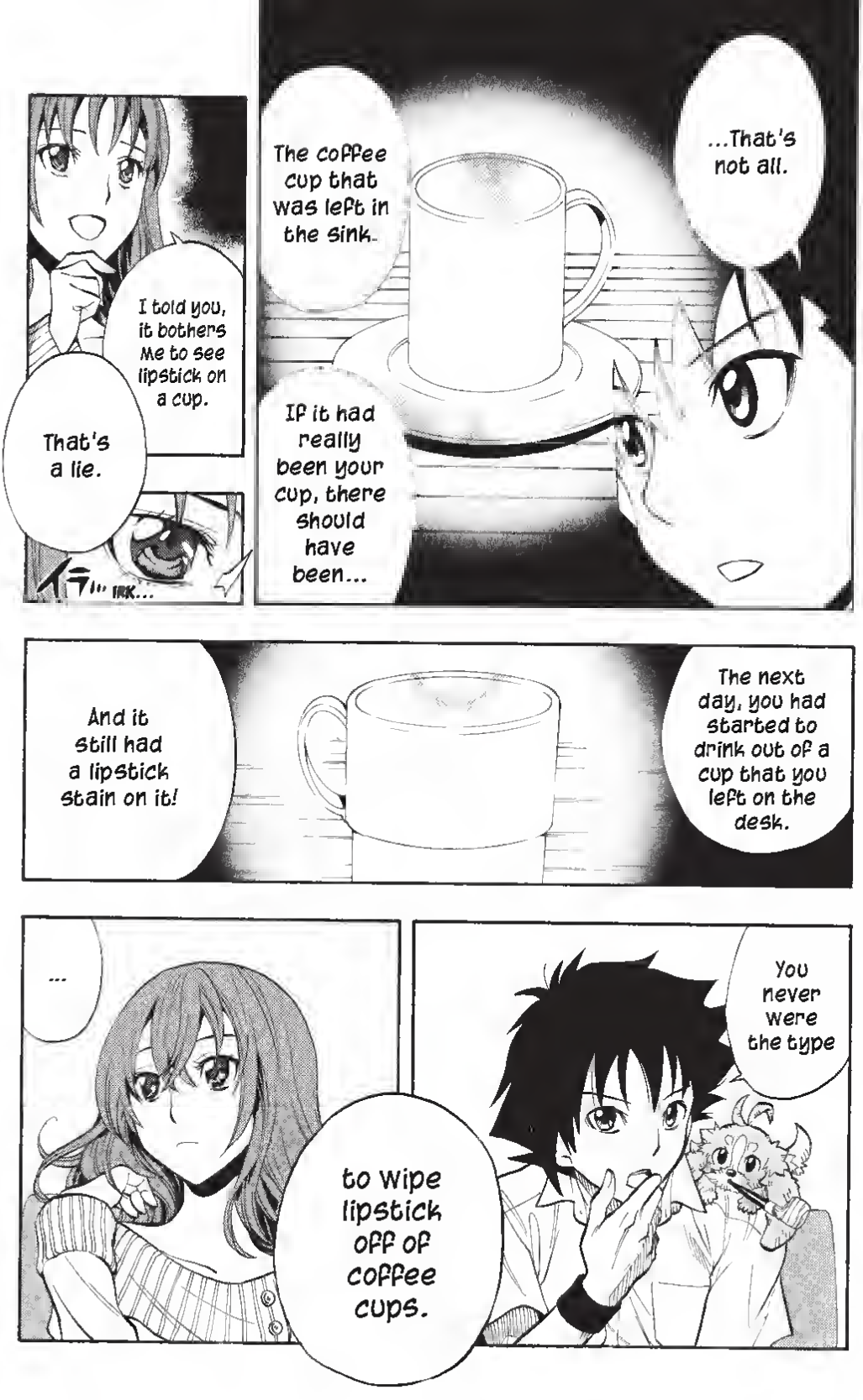
Get her!
It's now or never, Watson!
NOD

Why are you so obsessed with this delusion that I am a murderer?
Then you'll let me hear how you came to this conclusion?
SNAP

B-DMP...
At the time, Ms. Mayor...

When we visited you for our interview.
STILT STILT
FLUSTER FLUSTER
I first noticed you acting suspicious

...
...And what about it?
GRR...
You asked us to sit in armchairs.
Just like you did today.
Did I, really? I don't remember.
Normally, as the hostess, you would be sitting in this chair. That's common sense, right?
I don't remember that either.
GRR
On the brand new sofa.
Then the next day, you had Miki and me sit on the couch, like normal.
I have it all recorded in the video I took.
TWITCH


I told you, it bothers me to see lipstick on a cup.
That's a lie.
イラ… IRK…
The coffee cup that was left in the sink.
If it had really been your cup, there should have been...
...That's not all.
And it still had a lipstick stain on it!
The next day, you had started to drink out of a cup that you left on the desk.
...
to wipe lipstick off of coffee cups.
You never were the type

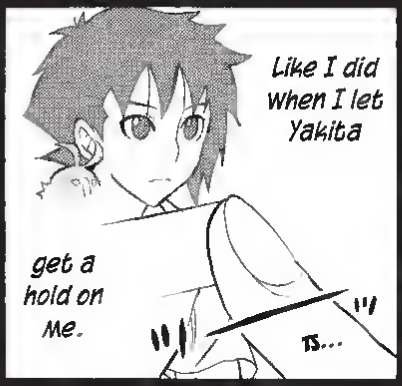
...
Are you saying...it belonged to... the murder victim?

Yes.
I understand that you had known Yakita in the past.

KLATTA
...You heard that from your detective sister, didn't you?

The cup on the kitchen counter that day belonged to someone else.
Someone who had been there before we arrived.
And you went to unnatural pains to hide it.
Am I wrong, Mayor Takasugi?

That won't do at all... the police are supposed to keep confidentiality.
We can't have them blabbing to everyone about the private lives of innocent citizens.
I object to this treatment! The Chief of Police will be hearing about this!
!!
I am now 100% certain she did it.
Mayor Takasugi is the killer.
B-BUMP...
IF I can't prove she's the murderer...
...IF I'M not careful, I could get my sister fired.
B-BUMP...
Not to worry, Watson.
B-BUMP...

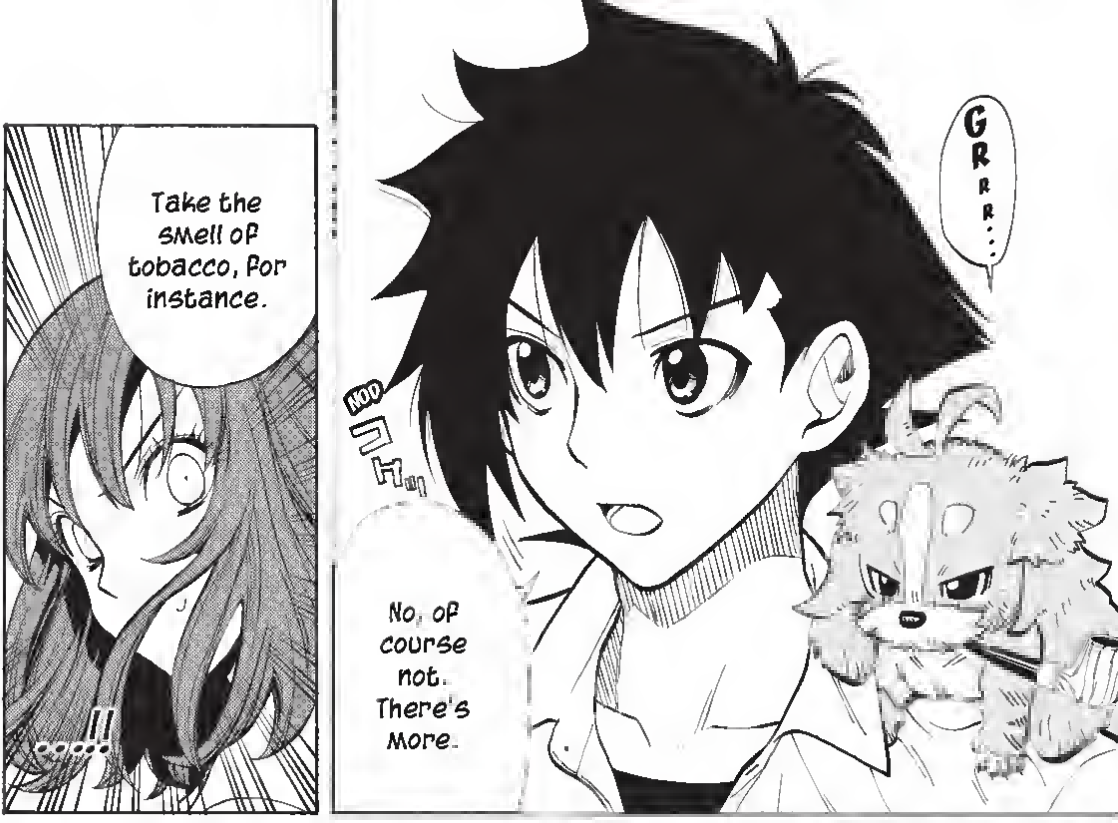

Like I did when I let Yakita
get a hold on me.
Is...

I don't want to make another mistake.
...What to do, what to do?

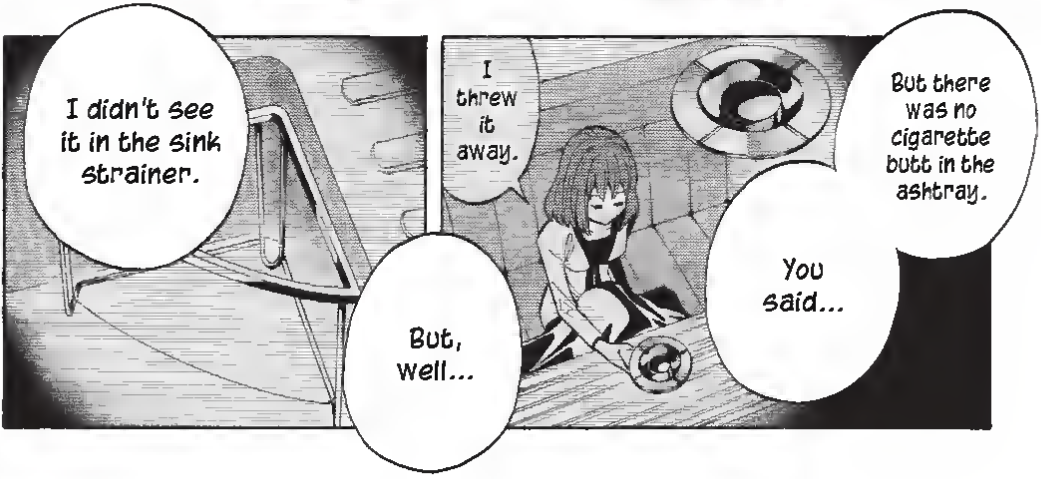
AND NEITHER WILL KILLING... A THIRD TIME.
Killing one person or two people made no difference.

Before I turn to my last resort,
I need to find out how much this kid knows.
Now, then.
My sitting on a sofa.
...And lipstick on a cup?
Let's see...
Is that all? Are those the only "unnatural" things you noticed the other day?

Case 7: ⚜ Hidden from the Press, Part 6


Take the smell of tobacco, for instance.
!!
GRRR...
NOD
No, of course not. There's more.

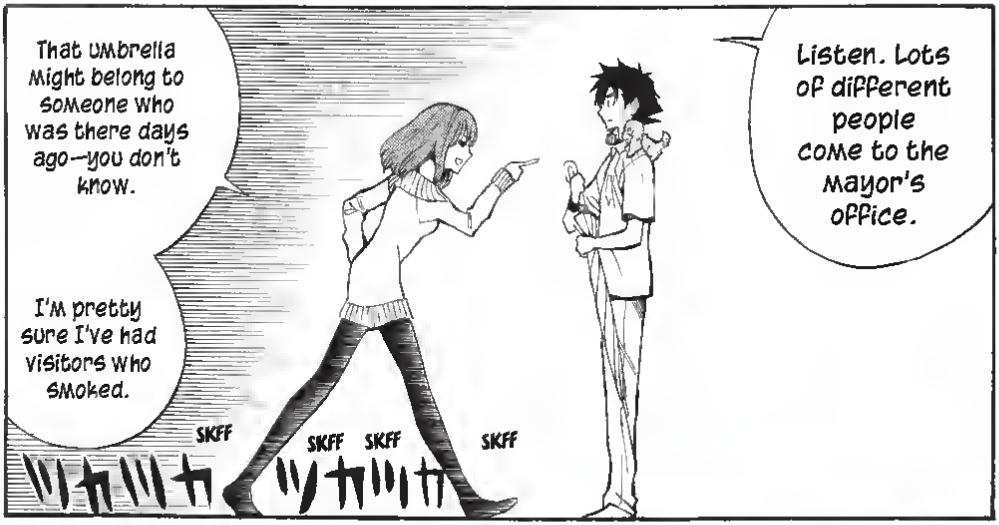
Especially because city hall is a smoke-free building.
When there's a smell inside a room, then someone coming from the outside is more likely to notice it.
SNIFF SNIFF
When we visited your office, I smelled cigarette smoke.


I didn't see it in the sink strainer.
But, well...
I threw it away.
But there was no cigarette butt in the ashtray.
You said...

Do you always throw recently extinguished cigarette butts in the trash can?
Well, you didn't look in the trash can.
Don't you think that's dangerous? There could still be embers left.
I ran it under some water before I threw it away.
It was full of plastic bags.
Not to mention the trash can itself.
...Why would you go to all that trouble?
GRIT
SHUT UP!!
Wouldn't you just have your secretary bring in a fresh ashtray?
Just like when you ordered coffee for us.

Mayor Takasugi.
Do you know why I brought this vinyl umbrella...
...when it's not even raining?
I...I don't know. Maybe the forecast predicted rain?
No.
B-DMP...
ドサン...
That's...
TWITCH
This fell on my head as soon as I opened the umbrella.
Cigarette ash.
FWOFF
PATTER PATTER
RUSTLE
This is why.

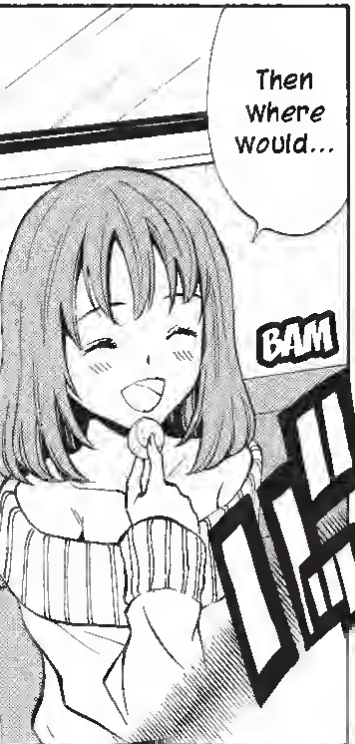
GISH...
And I took it home with me by mistake. That's what I think.
This umbrella isn't mine.
It belonged to someone who visited your office before I did.
Of course I don't smoke, and no one else in my family does, either.
I bought it at the corner store right before the interview.
So there's no way it could have gotten ash in it.
Even if this were my umbrella,
...What are you trying to say?
So that's what you were getting at.
HEE HEE...
Because unless you walk and smoke at the same time, you'd never get a pile of ash inside your umbrella.
Whoever it really belonged to must be someone who smoked frequently.


That umbrella might belong to someone who was there days ago—you don't know.
I'm pretty sure I've had visitors who smoked.
SKFF
SKFF SKFF
SKFF
Listen. Lots of different people come to the mayor's office.

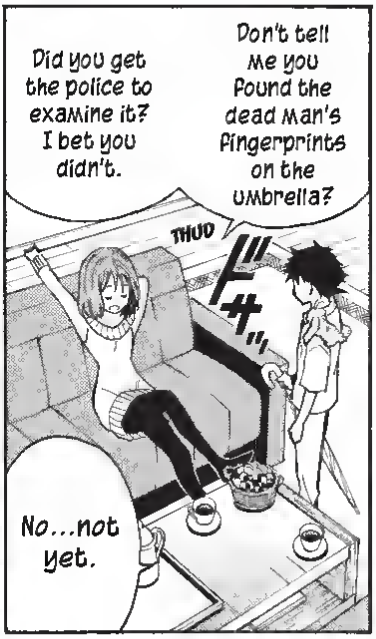
What?!!

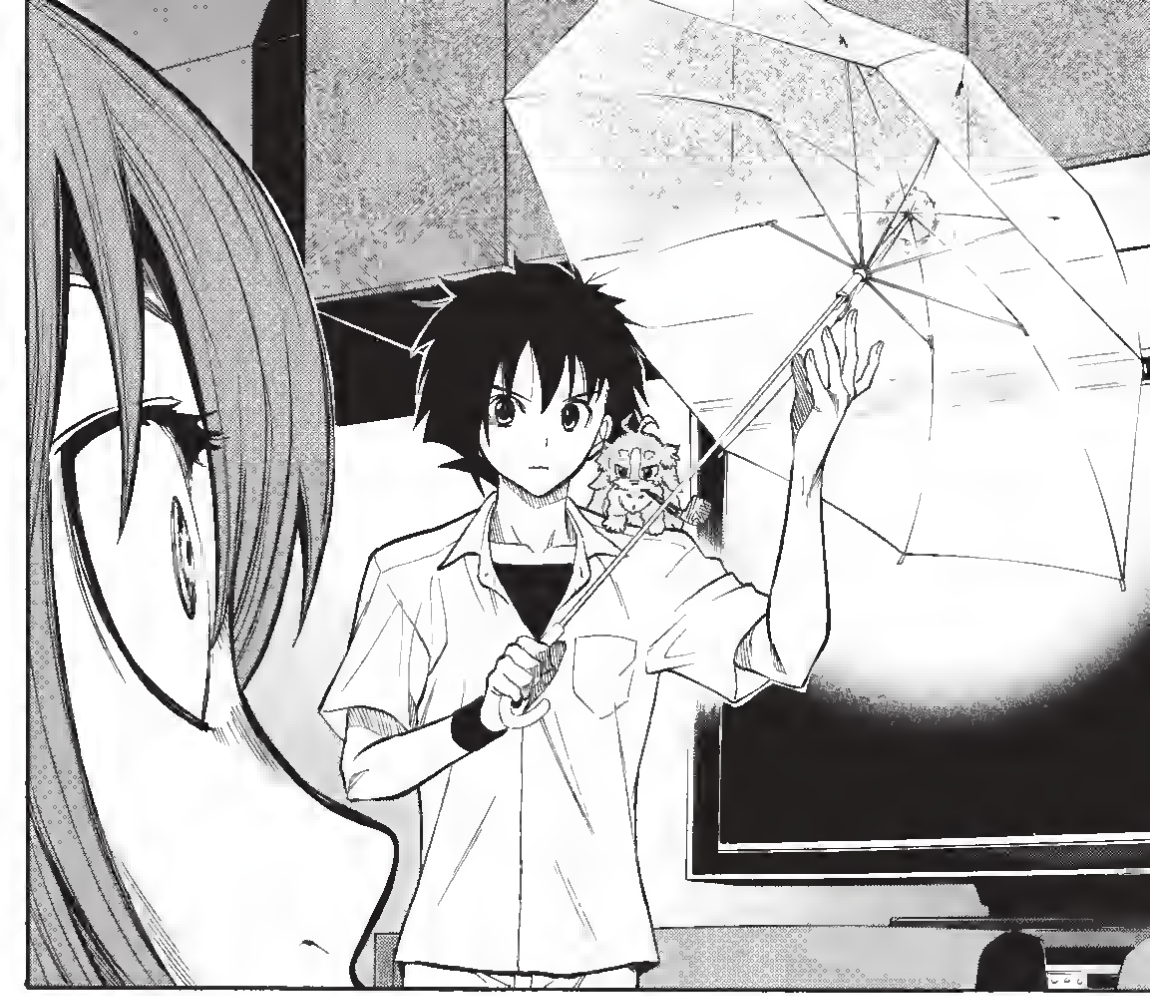
But...
None of them had the same fingerprints as Ichirō Yakita, did they?

When I took the umbrella
Don't you try to bluff me.
I made sure to wipe it from top to bottom.
...What is that supposed to mean?
There are any number of ways to talk my way out of that.
And if there are prints on it? They're mine!


Then where would...
BAM

You won't find his prints. He never came to my office.
I'll find them.
I doubt he'd be wearing gloves outside at this time of year.


Did you get the police to examine it? I bet you didn't.
Don't tell me you found the dead man's fingerprints on the umbrella?
THUD
No...not yet.



But every time you open or close an umbrella, you touch it right here.
It's surprising how much you don't think about it when the umbrella is closed.
...
DROP...

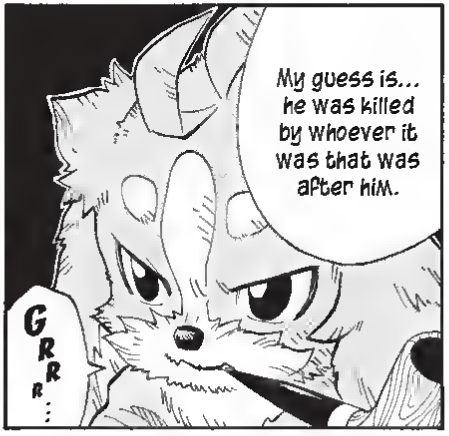
Here.

AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
OH, COME ON!
This umbrella was still wet when we got to your office. You would have had to wipe the prints off...
...after that, without us noticing. And then you could only have wiped the outside.
HEE
You caught me!
HEE
HEE
...
GULP...
If I could have resolved the matter with money...I would have.
...It's true. I told Yakita-san to come to my office.
I'd never do that. ...Now, take a seat.
So you admit you killed him?

...
The truth is, someone was after him.
He promised me that if I gave him five million yen to help him flee the country, I would never see him again.

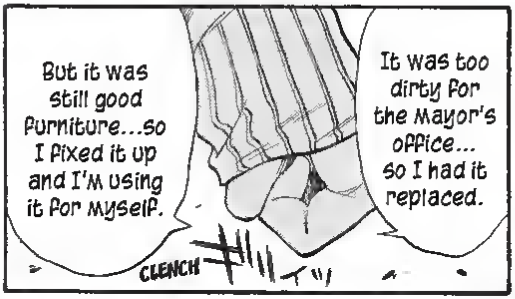
I had no choice but to hide it.
But even a little incident like that can be fatal to a mayor.
You see? We talked it out, and it was settled, just like that.

...Do you think you've talked your way out of this?
?!
Even if what you say is true...

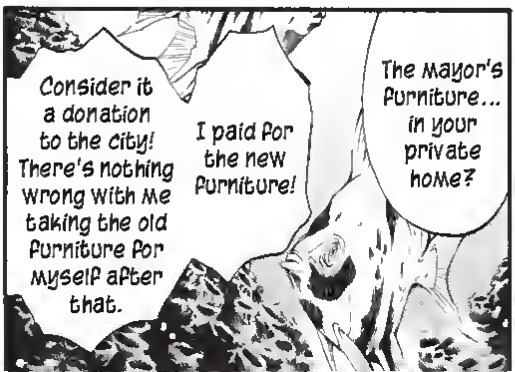

My guess is... he was killed by whoever it was that was after him.
GRRR...

And you still had the air conditioning high enough to need a blanket, even though it wasn't hot out.
You still had us sit in armchairs while you sat on the sofa.
No, it wasn't.
The game is on, Sherdog.
B-BMP...
Now that I'm in your apartment,
I told you it was just a coinci-dence!
You haven't explained any of that.
CLATTER
B-BMP...
I know exactly why you did those things.

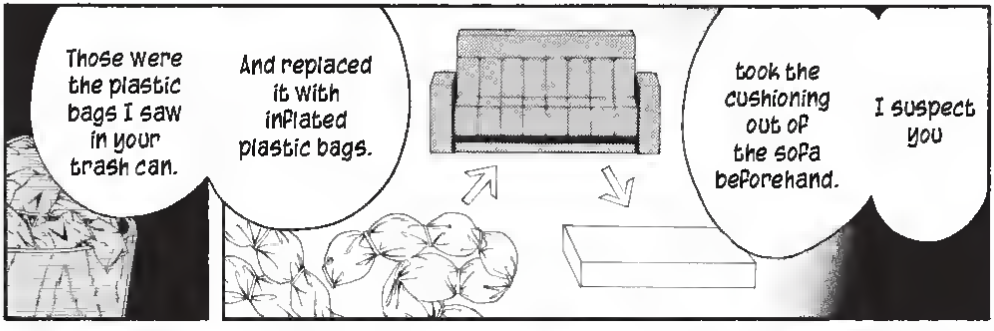
This set of furniture
is the same furniture that was in your office that day.


It was too dirty for the Mayor's office... so I had it replaced.
But it was still good furniture...so I fixed it up and I'm using it for myself.
CLENCH

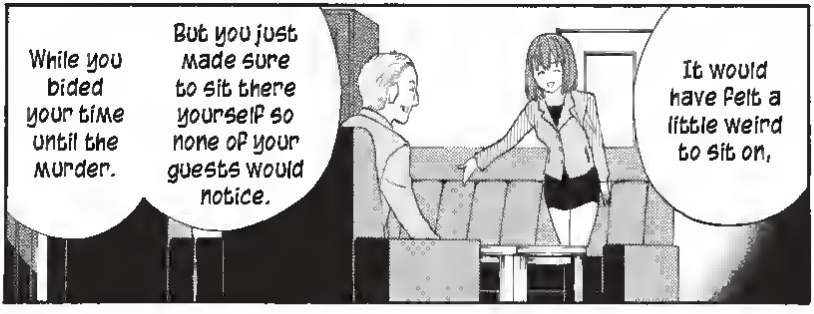
I remember it all, even how it felt to sit in this chair.
...
What is it doing here?


The Mayor's furniture... in your private home?
I paid for the new furniture!
Consider it a donation to the city! There's nothing wrong with me taking the old furniture for myself after that.

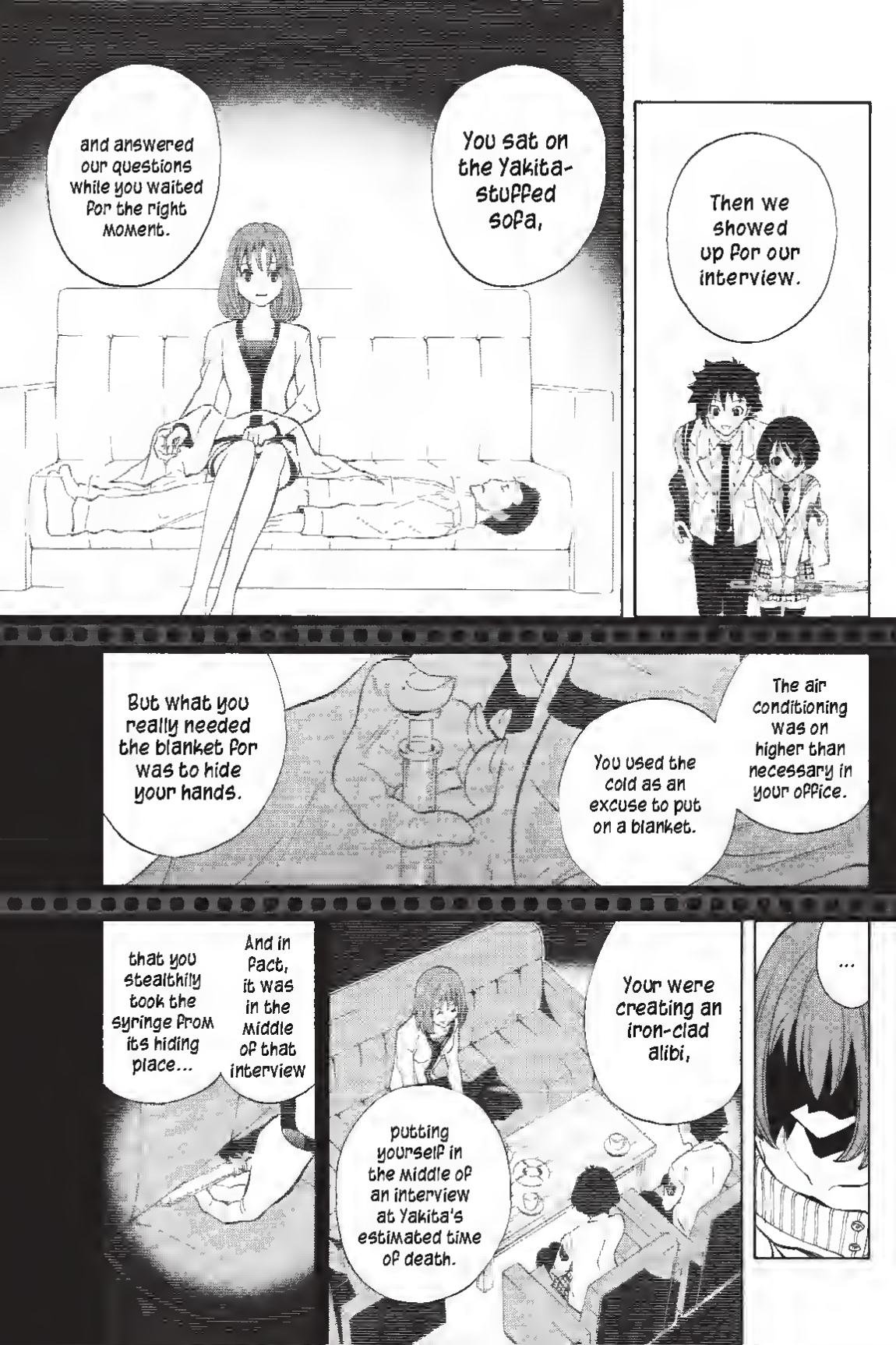
You're lying!
It was all to set the stage for your magic alibi!


Those were the plastic bags I saw in your trash can.
And replaced it with inflated plastic bags.
took the cushioning out of the sofa beforehand.
I suspect you

...

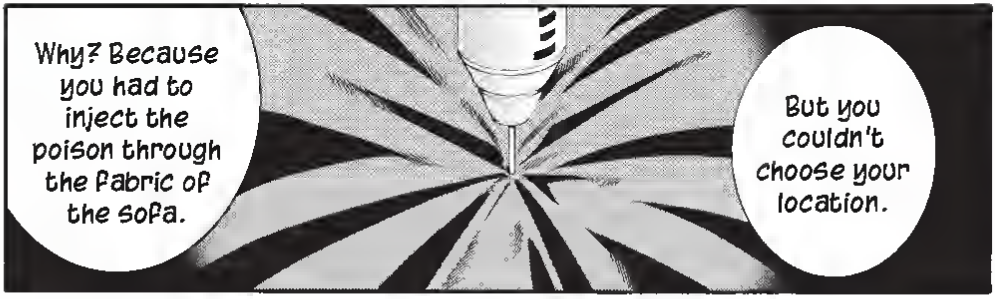

While you bided your time until the murder.
But you just made sure to sit there yourself so none of your guests would notice.
It would have felt a little weird to sit on,

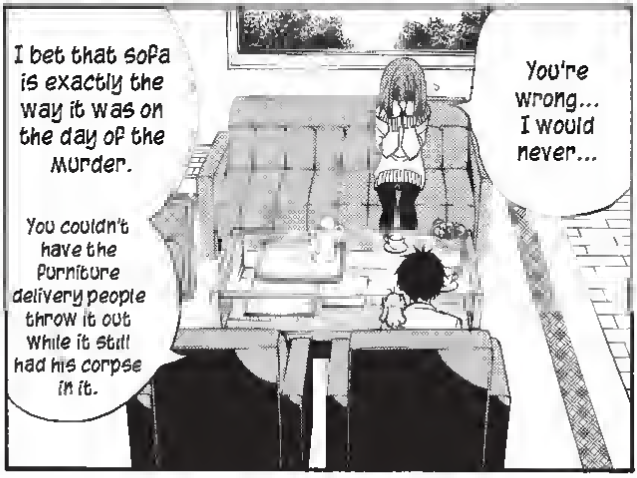
Then, on that rainy day,
Yakita disguised himself as an electrician— as per your instructions—
You played it cool, and slipped a sleeping drug into his coffee.
That's how you knocked him out.
Then you unzipped the sofa, took out the plastic bags,
and stuffed Yakita inside—he's a small man, after all.
And made sure no one saw his face when he went through reception.
...
Of course, at this point, Yakita was only sleeping.
He wasn't dead.


and answered our questions while you waited for the right moment.
You sat on the Yakita-stuffed sofa,
Then we showed up for our interview.
But what you really needed the blanket for was to hide your hands.
You used the cold as an excuse to put on a blanket.
The air conditioning was on higher than necessary in your office.
that you stealthily took the syringe from its hiding place...
And in fact, it was in the middle of that interview
putting yourself in the middle of an interview at Yakita's estimated time of death.
Your were creating an iron-clad alibi,
...

PTS
and killed him.
...
...injected the poison into the body of the man stuffed into the couch.

I heard that Yakita was stabbed somewhere in the shin.
Normally, you would inject poison into the arm or the neck.
Even if you did go for the leg, you would go for the thigh.


But you couldn't choose your location.
Why? Because you had to inject the poison through the fabric of the sofa.


You're wrong... I would never...
I bet that sofa is exactly the way it was on the day of the murder.
You couldn't have the furniture delivery people throw it out while it still had his corpse in it.

You brought it back to your home, so you could wait for a better opportunity to get rid of the body, didn't you?
Even with the cushioning back inside, you just couldn't let me sit there.
SWAY...

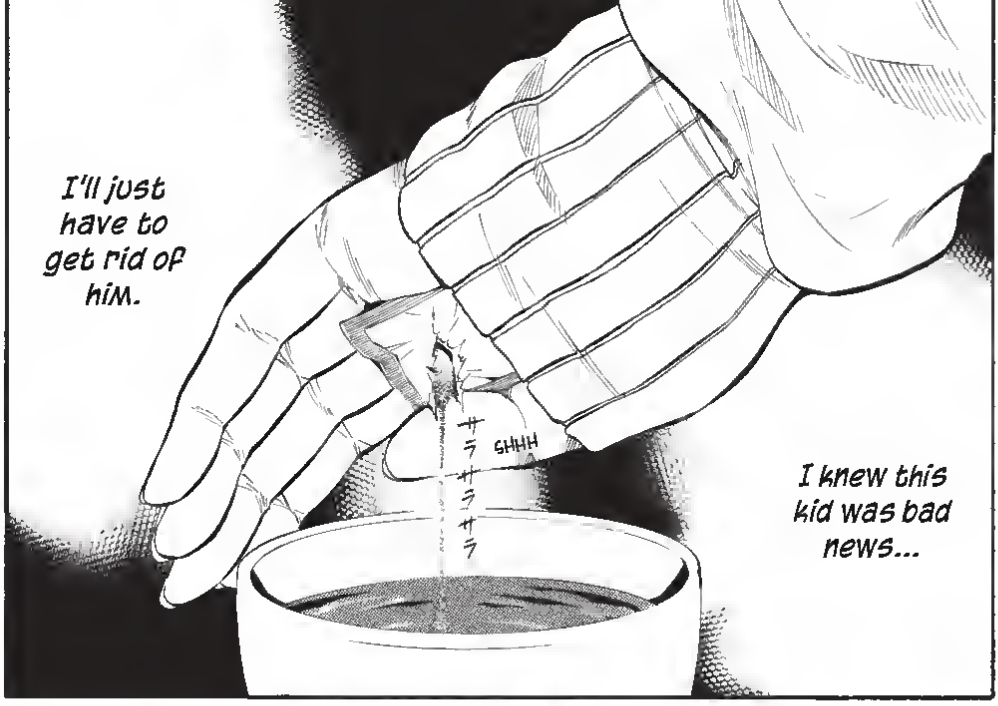
Do you have any proof?

...
If you really are innocent,
Then call my sister and someone from the crime lab right now, and let them examine the sofa!

CLATTER
Y...yes, I think so!
You probably took a vacuum to it after you tossed the body...but—
WHAP

There's sure to be a strand of hair, some sweat... Maybe a piece of skin that peeled off him!
PLOP
If the police investigate it thoroughly enough...

I just have to text my sister about the prints on the umbrella,
And send her the conversation I just recorded.
Sigh...
...
And she'll come running!


I'll just have to get rid of him.
サラサラサラ
SHHH
I knew this kid was bad news...

It's important to keep your medicine around.
It's true what they say—it pays to be prepared.

You brought this on yourself, by picking a fight with a murderer♡
Don't hold this against me.

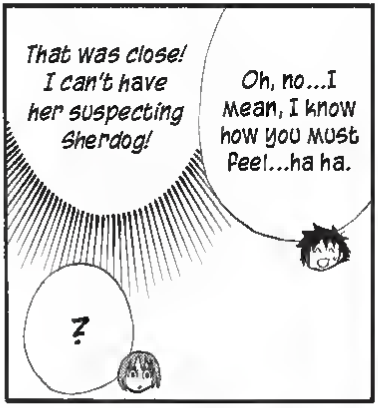
Case 7: ⚜ Hidden from the Press, Part 7

...
But that's no reason... to kill a man.
After you worked so hard, and even got yourself elected mayor.
You couldn't let blackmail stop you now. I understand that.
I had no choice...

!
Ms. Mayor.

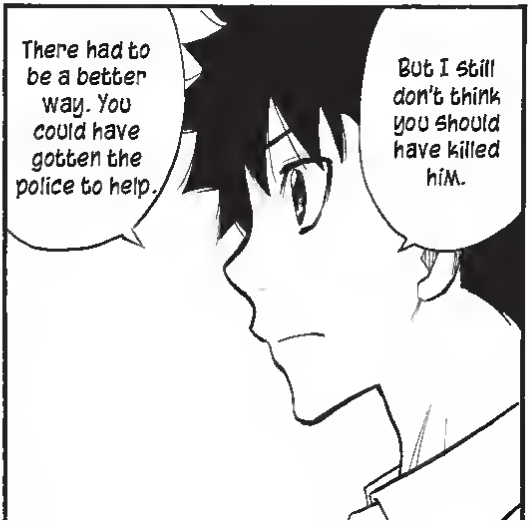
And that's not all...he said he was going to keep demanding money... No...it was worse than that.
He was demanding something even more degrading...
...That's awful.

...
He was demanding ten million yen...


That was close! I can't have her suspecting Sherdog!
Oh, no...I mean, I know how you must feel...ha ha.
?

What?
ARF!
Watson! She's a murderer! Don't let your guard down.
?!
I know.

...

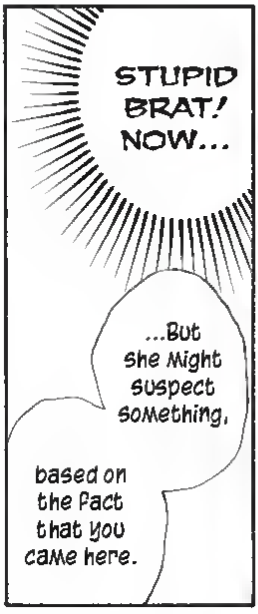

There had to be a better way. You could have gotten the police to help.
But I still don't think you should have killed him.

PTOOEY!
YOU'RE JUST A KID! WHAT DO YOU KNOW? WELL? WELL?!

AND NOW THIS KID'S TRYING TO GET ME LOCKED UP!
FIRST THAT MAN GOES BLABBING
ABOUT WHAT I DID IN THE PAST.

It's an act, Watson!
...
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL HIM! NO CHOICE!
But the blood went to my head— I couldn't think straight...
Maybe you're right...
This is not the crime of someone who's lost control.
It was done by an extremely rational intellect...by someone who's done it before.
It's possible that the beautiful mayor is in fact...
...unspeakably evil.
Then you'll turn yourself in...Mayor Takasugi?
!
But...I'm sure you've already told everything to your sister in Violent Crimes.
...
...

I don't think she even knows I suspected you.
No, I haven't told her anything yet.


STUPID BRAT! NOW...
...But she might suspect something,
based on the fact that you came here.

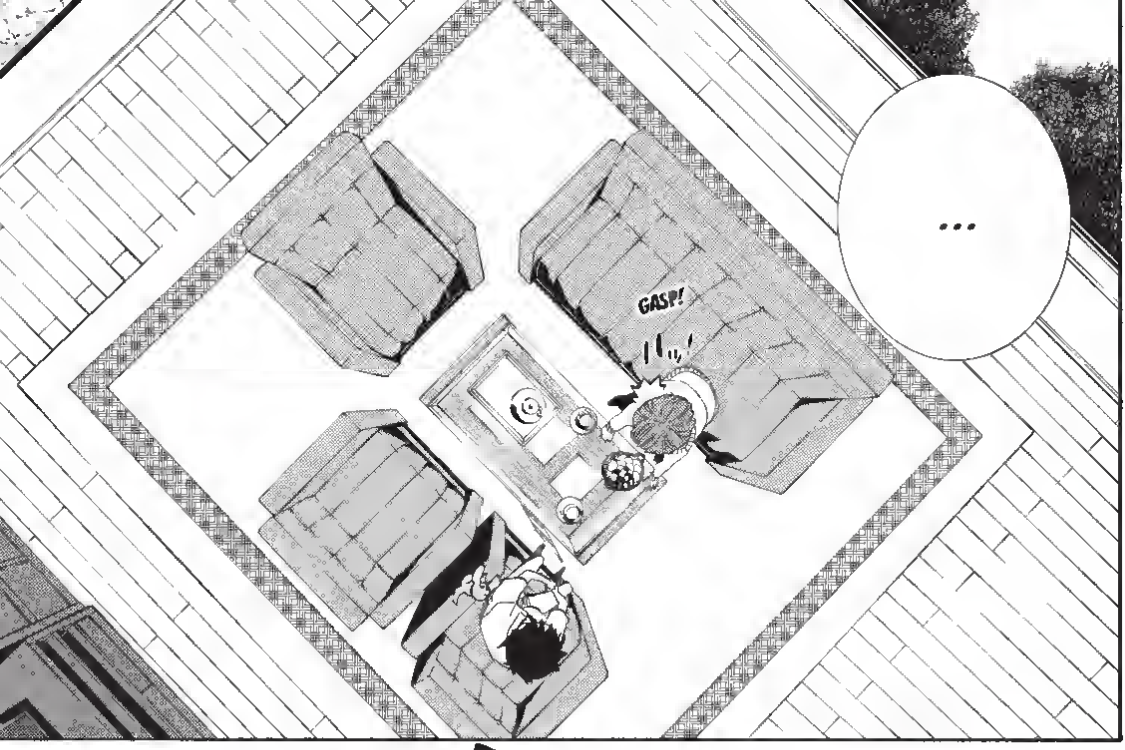
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR!
Really...?

Why would you tell her that?!
You fool!

No...I came here on the down-low. No one knows I'm here.
Thank you.
And remember? The girl who came with you before. ...Surely she knows?
!
Oh, please help yourself.

I see...
SS...
ARF
ARF
ARF
Don't underestimate a Murderer, Watson!
...
...To turn myself in.
SS...
SS...
Then I still have a chance...
DRINK IT, DRINK IT!
YESSS!
DRINK IT AND DROP OFF TO SLEEP, JUST LIKE THAT MISERABLE FLEA!
DRINK THE COFFEE!

DON'T DRINK IT, WATSON!
BAM
WHAM
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, YOU MANGY MUTT?!
THUNK
SPLASH


...
GASP!

Uh... S...Sorry about my dog...
ARF
ARF
Did you see that?! There was something in the coffee...

DAMN! MY EXTRA-STRENGTH SLEEP MEDI-CATION, WASTED!
SMILE...
I...I'm sorry. I lost control...

I-I'll pick up the...
...cup...
SWAY...
Uh.
WHAT DO I DO WHAT DO I DO WHAT DO I DO WHAT DO I DO?! TAKE OFF MY CLOTHES?! I'LL STUN HIM WITH A STRIP SHOW AND...

IT'S WORKING!
Watson!
THUD
...UH...
HUH..?

You didn't drink much, so it didn't take effect instantly...
But it's only a matter of time before you're out like a light!
ARF
SHER... SHERDOG...
Spit it out! She probably used the same drug that knocked out Yakita!

You need to get out of here! Quickly!
SWOOSH
SHUT UP, YOU MANGY MUTT!
KAPOW

Now...
SQUIRT
It's time for your final dose♡
Yeah, that's right! Do you get it now?! Gya ha ha ha ha!
IS... IS THAT WHAT YOU USED... TO KILL YAKITA...?
NGH...
So, I killed him.
A long, long time ago, there was a man. We fought about breaking up, and about money.
SSS...
...The likes of which a kid like you would never understand.
You see, I've crawled my way through a hell...
NSH...
NSH...

Yakita was my manager in the industry. He saw it all.
Well, I wouldn't be where I am today if he hadn't helped me dispose of the body.
IN A SENSE, I OWE HIM A LOT. GYA HA HA HA HA!
GO AHEAD- CRY, SCREAM! MY APART- MENT HAS AN AUTOMATIC LOCK, AND IT'S COM- PLETELY SOUND- PROOF! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!
MISTER WAN- NABE DETEC- TIVE!

GO TO HELL!
WHACK
DAMN IT!
HOLD STILL!
SWAY...

HUH?
SWAY...
ヲヲ...
...WHAT?
WHAT'S... HAPPEN...
...ING?
FSH

THUD

...Th...that was close...
SNORE... FWEE...
ZZZ... SNORT...
...

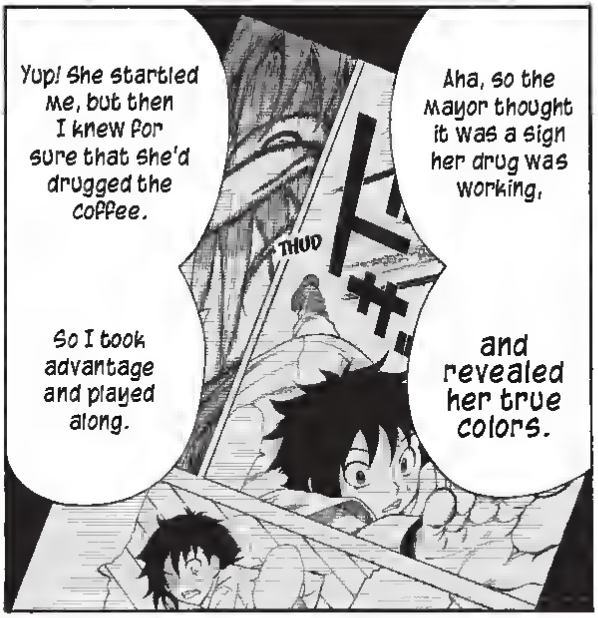
I didn't expect the demonic mayor to lose consciousness like that.
Don't tell me...you...
Yup.

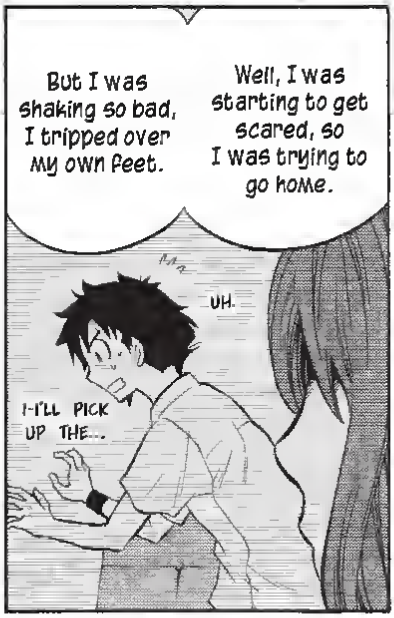
!
What is the meaning of this, Watson?

Yes... somehow.
Sherdog... Are you okay?

!
Just in case. She did drug Yakita with coffee, after all.
I switched our cups.

She sure is scary. I don't care how pretty she is—she kills people.
...
Then why did you fall over?


Yup! She startled me, but then I knew for sure that she'd drugged the coffee.
So I took advantage and played along.
THUD
Aha, so the mayor thought it was a sign her drug was working,
and revealed her true colors.


But I was shaking so bad, I tripped over my own feet.
Well, I was starting to get scared, so I was trying to go home.
UH.
I-I'LL PICK UP THE...

If you had been wrong...
I'm impressed you thought of that on the spur of the moment.
...But hey.

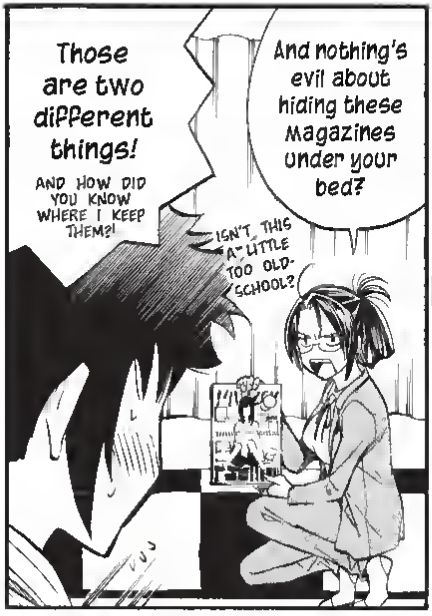
So I figured she'd pass out before too long anyway.
She had no idea I'd swapped the cups—she just drank from hers like nothing was wrong.

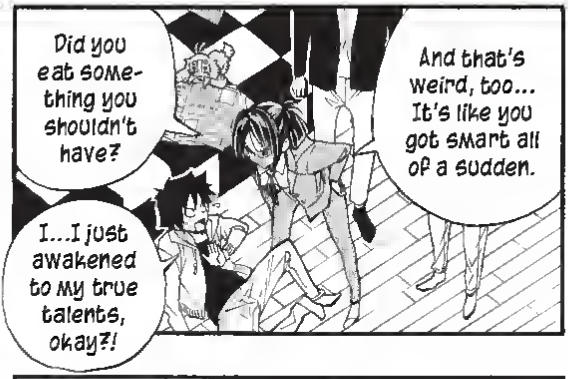
I wanted to do whatever it took to catch her.
After she punted my partner like that!
YOINK
...
KA-POW

Watson.
...
We need to talk.
...I have something important to tell you.

Coffee Time 3: The best Assistant

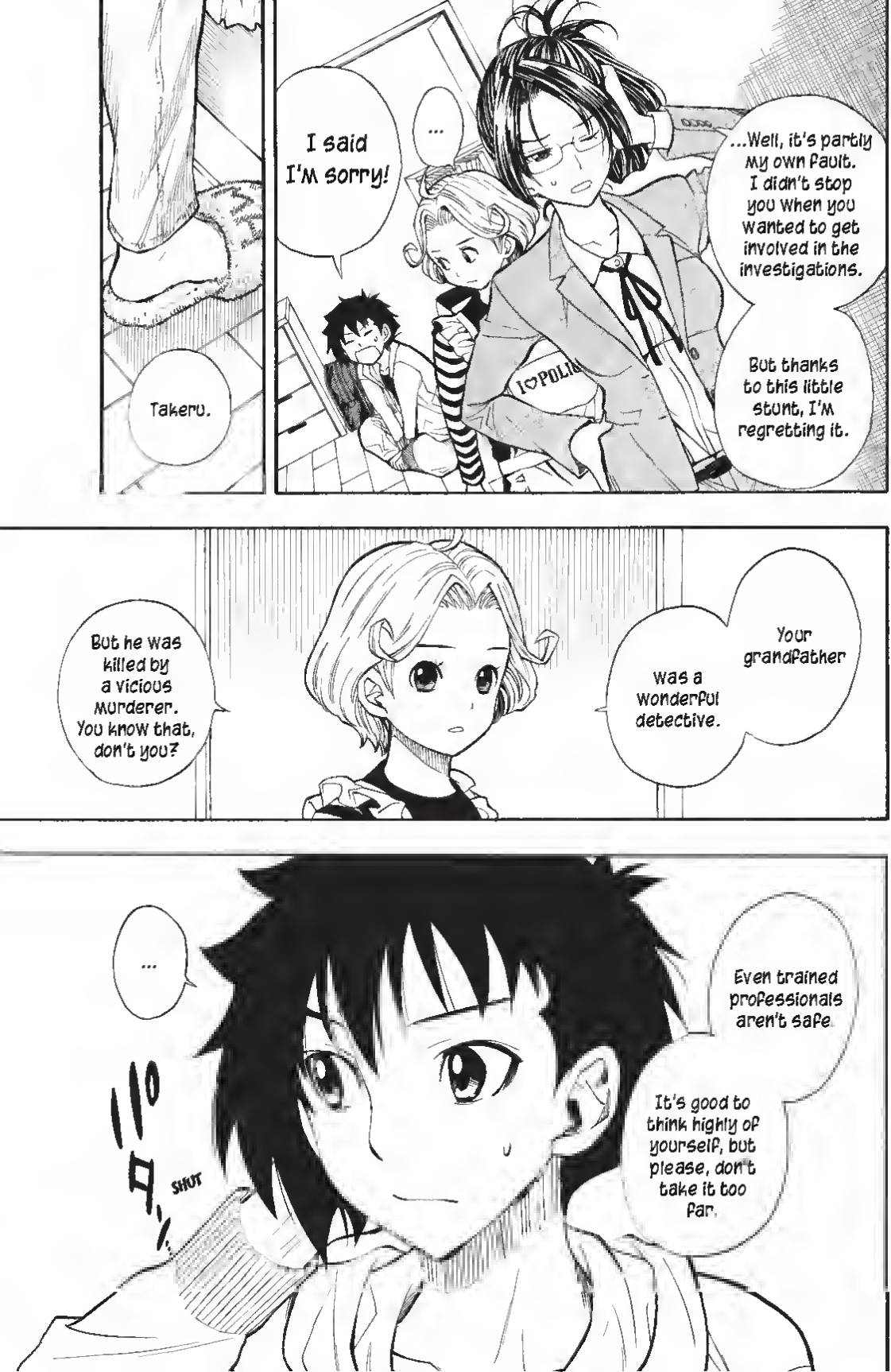
...
He's just getting a swollen head because he managed to solve all of them.
Takeru's been involved in a few cases recently.


Those are two different things!
AND HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE I KEEP THEM?!
And nothing's evil about hiding these magazines under your bed?
ISN'T THIS A LITTLE TOO OLD-SCHOOL?

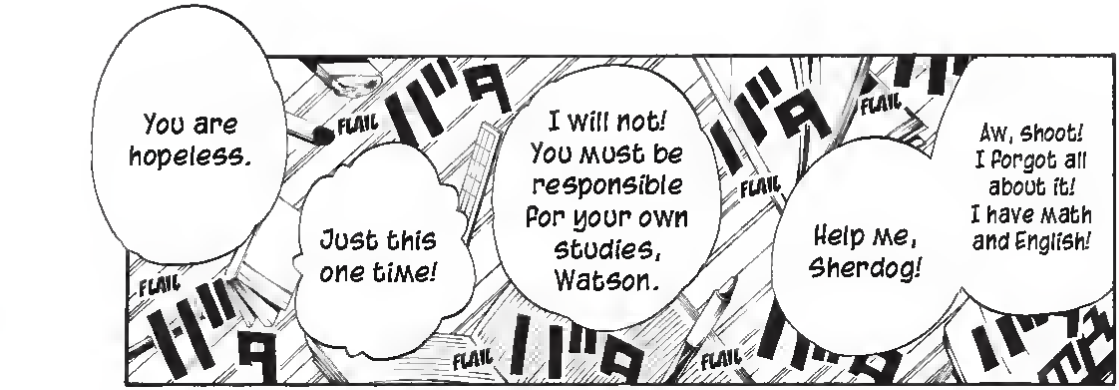

Did you eat something you shouldn't have?
And that's weird, too... It's like you got smart all of a sudden.
I...I just awakened to my true talents, okay?!

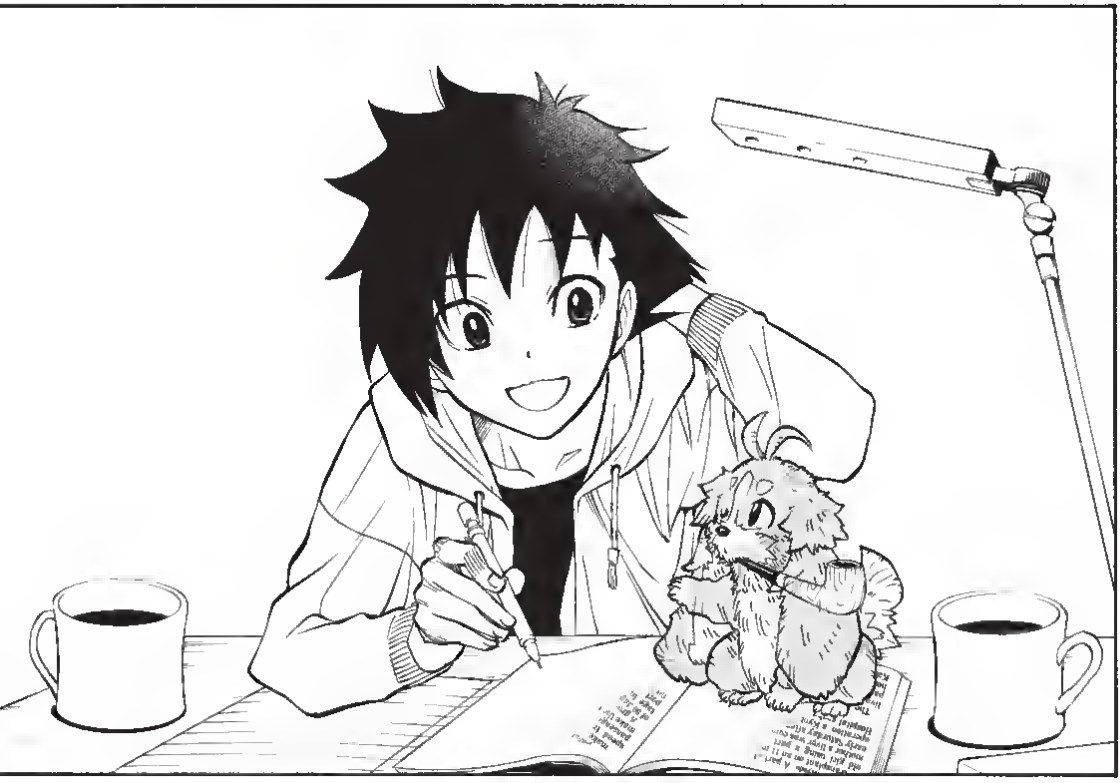
Like, a heart that can't forgive evil!
T-talent as a detective...
True talents? What talents?

I don't care what's going on around you, the next time you stick your neck into a case, I'll strangle it!
Anyway!
You are nothing more than an average, ordinary high school student!

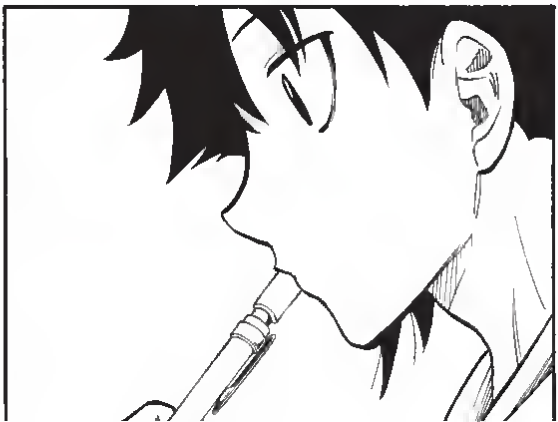

Takeru.
I said I'm sorry!
...
...Well, it's partly my own fault. I didn't stop you when you wanted to get involved in the investigations.
But thanks to this little stunt, I'm regretting it.
Your grandfather was a wonderful detective.
But he was killed by a vicious murderer. You know that, don't you?
...
Even trained professionals aren't safe.
It's good to think highly of yourself, but please, don't take it too far.
SHUT

Oh, right.
What did you want to tell me, Sherdog?
I wanted to ask you, but things kinda blew up at me.
!!
Tell me about it.
They certainly put you through the wringer, Watson.
I thought I might get a little credit, at least.
BOFF
...Oh.
...I have something important to tell you.
We need to talk.
Anyway, have you finished your homework?
Erk!
What the heck? You're so weird!
...It was nothing.
NOOGIE
NOOGIE


You are hopeless.
FLAIL
Just this one time!
I will not! You must be responsible for your own studies, Watson.
FLAIL
Help me, Sherdog!
FLAIL
Aw, shoot! I forgot all about it! I have Math and English!



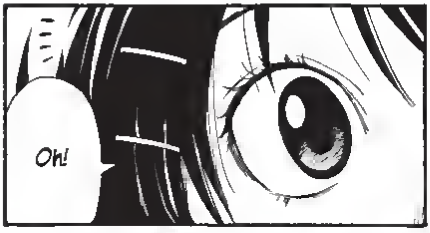
...Just this one time.
...
It really will be...



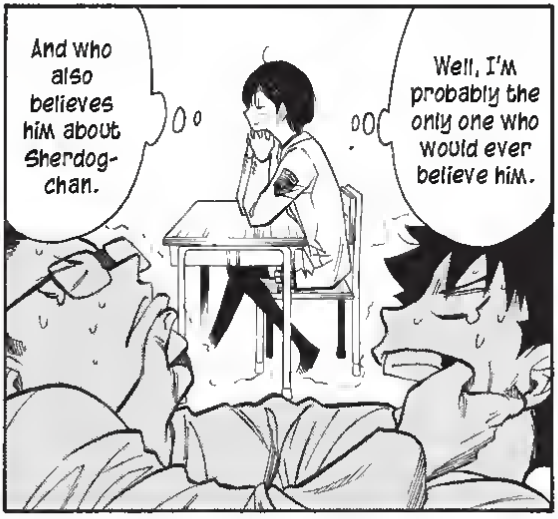
London Mayor Arrested
HUSTLE
...
TWITCH TWITCH
You can't even get better than a D in Modern Japanese! Wa ha ha ha ha!
Your sister caught the mayor! There's no way you have the skills to squeeze a confession out of anyone!

You're full of it! Try and come up with some better lies, Wajima!

You are so not convincing, Takeru.
PASSION ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU SMARTER
That's how I solved the crime!
JUSTICE? YOU? YEAH, RIGHT!
It's true, I tell ya! I've awakened to my passion for justice!


Oh!

Huh- Wha?
Takeru.
Where's Sherdog-chan today?


And who also believes him about Sherdog-chan.
Well, I'm probably the only one who would ever believe him.

Really? That's unusual.
He'll be fine, as long as he doesn't make Mom mad.
Oh... He said he was a little tired, so he's spending a quiet day at home.
VROOOOM
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR

Miki! Wajima-kun!
RATTLE!
Yeah, now that you mention it.

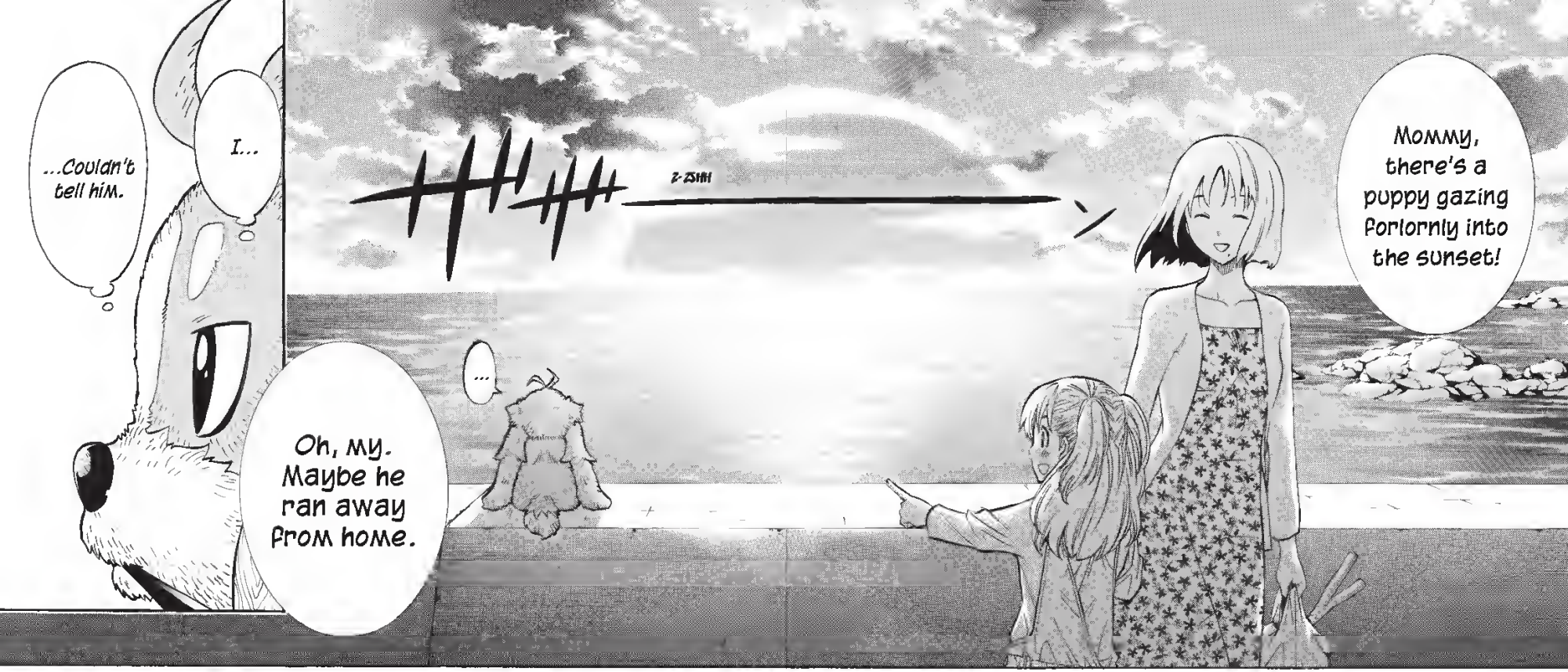
じゃーん
TADA!!
CAREER GOALS SURVEY
Have you finished yours?
Your career goals survey?
Ugh! We're going to take entrance exams next year. You need to get your head out of the clouds!
Aw, crap, I haven't done mine yet!
You're going to college, right, Miki?
Yup! Because I want to be a journalist.
HEH HEH.
HUFF !!?...
HUFF !!?...
Akane, what's up?
Huh? Nanami!
Hmm...me?
What about you, Akane?
Oh...she really is putting thought into her future.

...Maybe I'll go where you're going, Wajima-kun?
I'd really like to know where that is...hee hee.

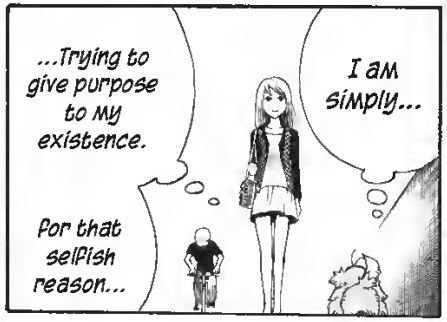
Oh, well, uh, I dunno...ha ha ha.
Y-yikes, first the mayor—now I think my classmates are gonna kill me.
ゴオオ
F-WOOSH
DIE DIE DIE DIE...
Dammit, Wajima... Why do all the cute girls only care about you?
Don't let it get to your head...

So where are you going? College? Straight to the workforce? Tell me ♡
...!
Huh?
GRIT
GRIT
GRIT

What do I want to do...?
...My career goals, huh?


...Couldn't tell him.
I...
Oh, my. Maybe he ran away from home.
...
Mommy, there's a puppy gazing forlornly into the sunset!

Perhaps it would be better... if I got out of his life.
If I just left, went far away...


...Trying to give purpose to my existence.
For that selfish reason...
I am simply...

...into a world of danger.
...I dragged a young boy...

...But it can't be that easy.
TMP
It's such a ridiculous theory, even I can't help laughing at it.

There is a reason I was reborn, a reason I met you.
...Watson. You have the makings of a true detective.
I believe that reason may be so that I can mold you into a world-class super-sleuth.

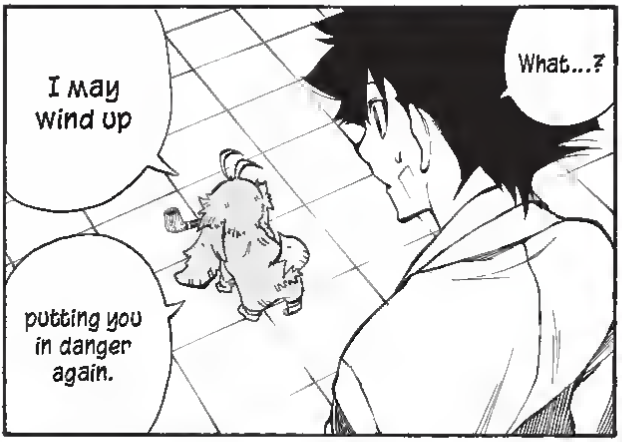
Oh, right.
What did you want to tell me, Sherdogz

!!
SNATCH
EEEEEEK!
They say a dog can run...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...at speeds of up to 70 km an hour!
*about 43.5 mph
DEPENDING ON THE BREED.
A bicycle is no match for...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Do you think you can outrun me?
ARF
ARF
ARF
Somebody, help! He took my purse!
What?!
ARF
ARF
ARF
Stop, thief
ARF
FSHHH

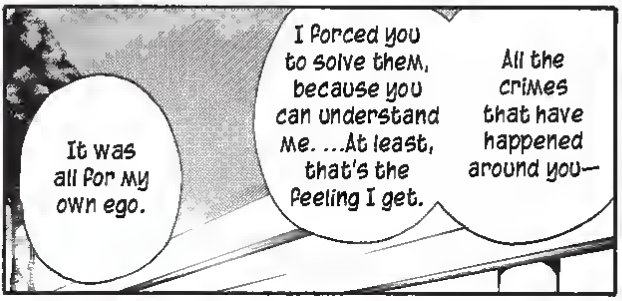
I can't possibly run 70km an hour on these stubby legs! I can't!
...I can't catch him
I may have the memories of my former life as Sherlock Holmes...
Stop...
HUFF
HUFF
Wait...
HUFF
Grr, I'm pathetic... In my current state, I'm powerless!
Stop!
...But my cries won't reach him.
I may have mastered the knowledge and skills of a detective...

WHAM!
ER-
GYAAAA!
What's up, Sherdog?
...!

...Watson, that location wasn't on your way home from school.
What were you doing there?
I'm just glad everything worked out.
AND THAT I WASN'T HURT TOO BADLY
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
O-oh, I...
Just how far were you planning to walk to? I looked everywhere.
I could ask you the same thing, Sherdog.
I knew right where to find you.
But hey, since you were shouting "stop" so loud,
...!
B-BMP


What...?
I may wind up
putting you in danger again.

Right... of course.
You will always hear it.
My voice will reach you.
I had intended to leave you.


It was all for my own ego.
I forced you to solve them, because you can understand me. ...At least, that's the feeling I get.
All the crimes that have happened around you—

...
Yeah... That's why.

I'm afraid it will happen again, and I...
But you were almost killed because of it.

You always knew who did it—I couldn't just let the criminals get away.
...But I wanted to solve them.

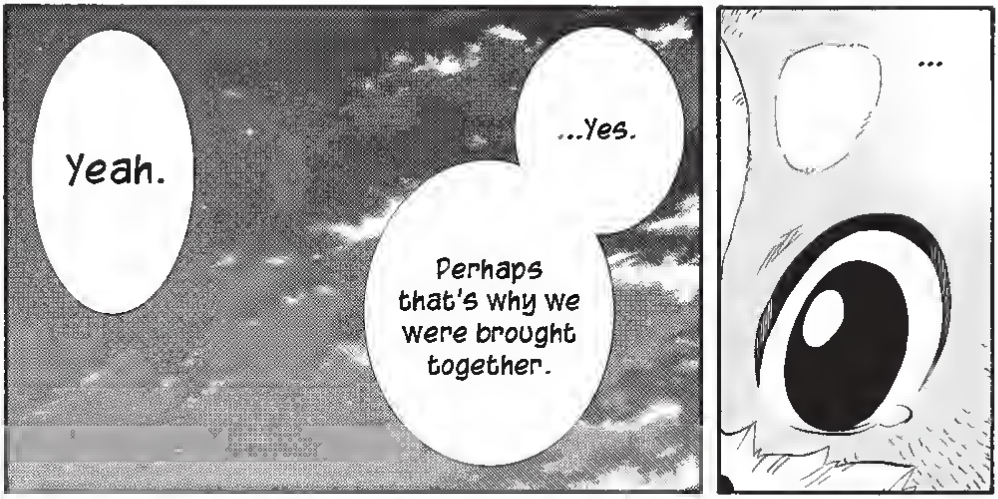
I've decided to be a detective.
LONDON

I mean, I'd kinda been thinking of it already.
I do come from a police family, after all.

What...?

I always thought, "I'm my own man! I'll do what I want!"
But...
But to be honest, I never thought I could do it... I'm not good at everything, like my sister.
And I'm not a hard worker like my dad.

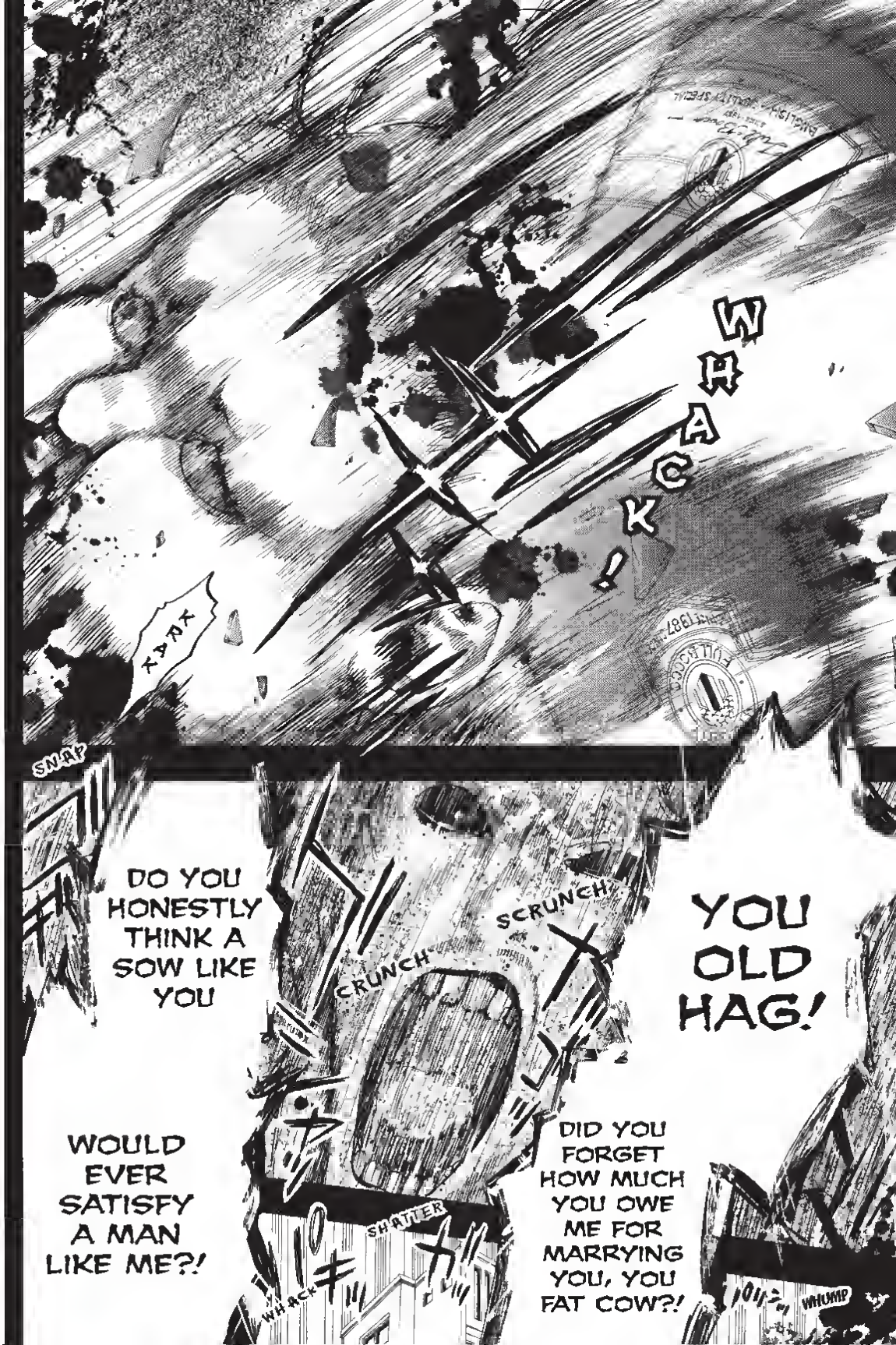
After working with you, Sherdog,
For the first time in my life, I started to realize, "Hey, I can do something."
Sherdog.
You can't do it without me.
...
!
The world is full of crimes that will never be solved without you.
And I bet


Yeah.
...Yes.
Perhaps that's why we were brought together.
...

And I you, Watson.
So I hope you'll keep helping me out, Sherdog.

Case 8: ⚜ Requiem for a New Beginning, Part 1

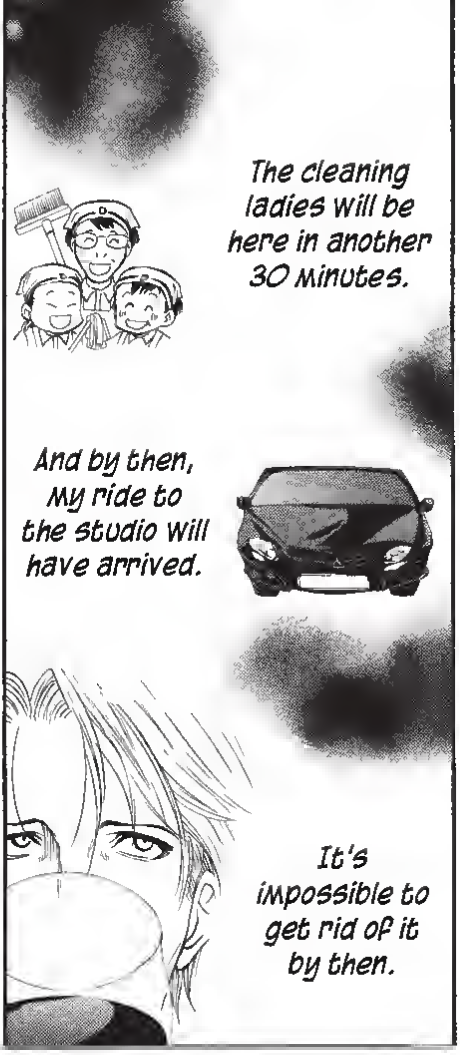
I won't do it again! I promise, I'll never see her again!
Please! You have to forgive me!
Newscaster Muneo Tsuzuki (45)
BAM
Who do you think made you the successful anchorman you are today?
And they call you a lady killer.
Replacements for you are a dime a dozen! You piece of trash!
GRING
...
Get out of my house.
What...?
CRUNCH
...I've had enough. We're through.
But of course, if I tell Daddy, you'll lose your job anyway. He is the president of Kuji TV, after all.
GRIND
You will be stepping down as Daily Japan's anchorman.
It's full of fine wine. Think of that as your parting gift.
SNAP
And take that wine cellar with you. It's just taking up space.
TREMBLE
TWITCH

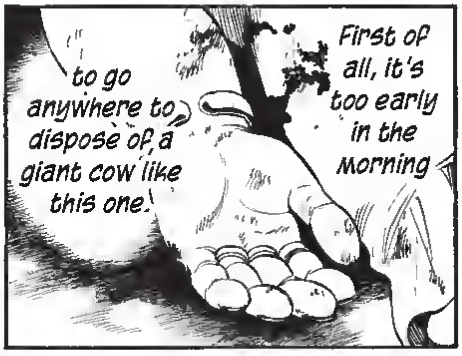

KAAHW
!KC
KARK
SNAP
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK A SOW LIKE YOU
WOULD EVER SATISFY A MAN LIKE ME?!
CRUNCH
SCRUNCH
SHATTER
WHACK
YOU OLD HAG!
DID YOU FORGET HOW MUCH YOU OWE ME FOR MARRYING YOU, YOU FAT COW?!
WHUMP

Waaaah! What happened?! Her head is a bloody mess...
A-a-ambulance! I need to call an...
HUFF
!!?
...
...Gasp!
...
...
TOK
TOK
TOK
KACHAK

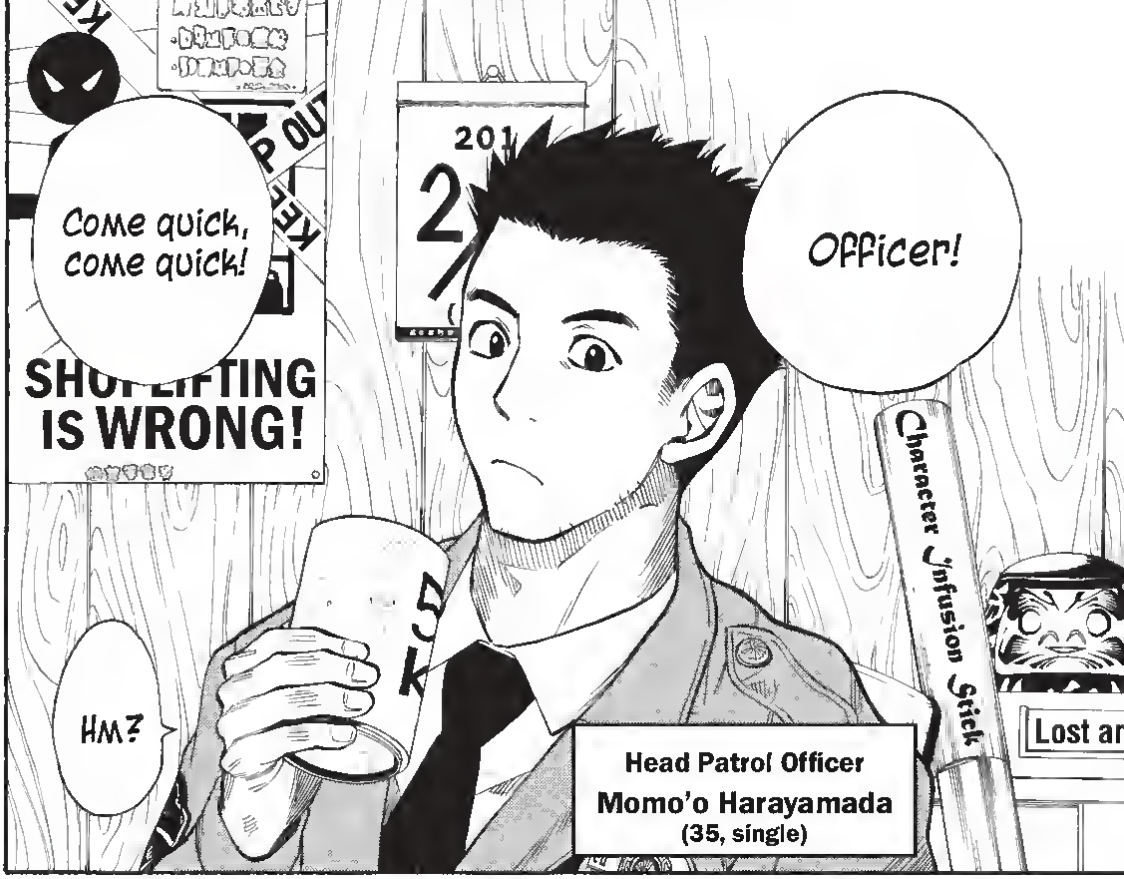
...
I feel so much better♡
AAAH
Romanée-Conti, truly the best!
I was hoping all the food I gave her would kill her with heart disease.
But all it did was keep fattening her up, with no end in sight. So this worked out rather nicely.
There's nothing I can do to fix it, now that she's dead.
The problem
is what do I do with the sow's body.

Yes, let's do it!
A toast to my brilliant idea! Heh heh heh...

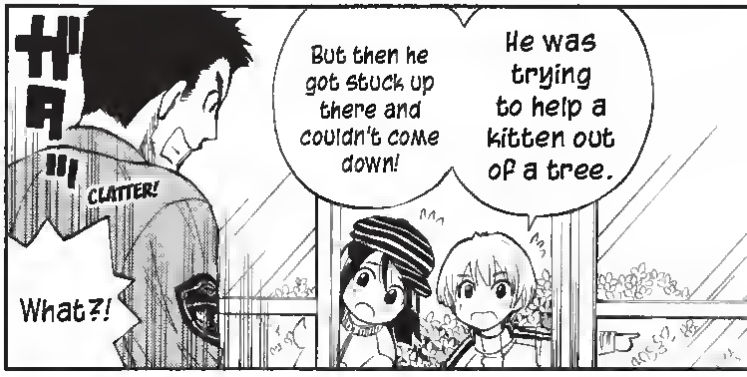

The cleaning ladies will be here in another 30 minutes.
And by then, my ride to the studio will have arrived.
It's impossible to get rid of it by then.


First of all, it's too early in the morning
to go anywhere to dispose of a giant cow like this one!

Of course!
ooo!


Come quick, come quick!
SHOPLIFTING IS WRONG!
Officer!
HM?
Head Patrol Officer
Momo'o Harayamada
(35, single)
Character Infusion Stick
Lost an

He's a policeman!
YOU CAN DO IT!
STOMP
がーくっ

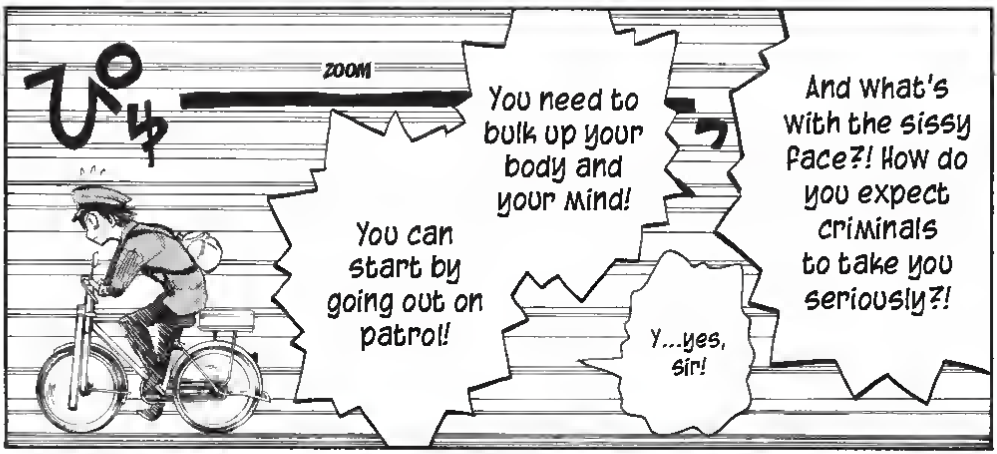

He was trying to help a kitten out of a tree.
But then he got stuck up there and couldn't come down!
CLATTER!
What?!

Climbing trees is dangerous! You should have asked a police officer!
Where's your friend?
He's not really our friend...
PATTER
PATTER

Uh, duh—
SLIP
Buh!
WINCE
MEOW!
Wah!
Heeey! What do you think you're doing, you disgrace to the uniform!
THUD!
ドス!
SNAP
Z-Z-ZSH
CRACK
SNAP
Waaah!
しゃきん
SHI-KING
Don't tell me your the new recruit...
Yessir!
I...haven't seen you around.
Are you okay, Mister?
IS THE KITTY OKAY?
MEOW!
Owww...
Uh, yeah. I think so.
HERE'S YOUR KITTY.
...

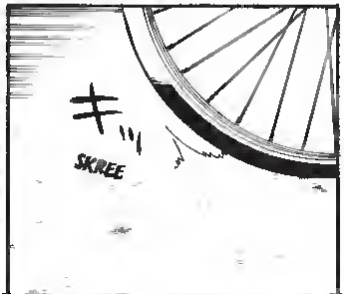
As of this February, I am an officer assigned to the 2-chōme police box in the Baker District of London City.
Officer Takeru Wajima! I look forward to working with you!
Patrol Officer Takeru Wajima (19)
Y-yes, sir! I'm Takeru Wajima, age 19! I look forward to working with you, sir!
I can't hear you!

It's when we go out drinking after work to train ourselves mentally until morning!
Huh? Al... alco...?
Then how are you supposed to join in the alcommunication?!
You're a minor?!


ZOOM
You need to bulk up your body and your mind!
You can start by going out on patrol!
Y...yes, sir!
And what's with the sissy face?! How do you expect criminals to take you seriously?!

PSST
Hey.
Don't move around so much.

SQUIRM SQUIRM...
!


SKREE

I know I've said it before, but...
Congratulations on your post at the police box, Watson.
Yeah, thanks, Sherdog.
HOP
Sherdog.
Wajima Family Dog
Sherdog
(mixed breed, male, age ?)
Sherdog

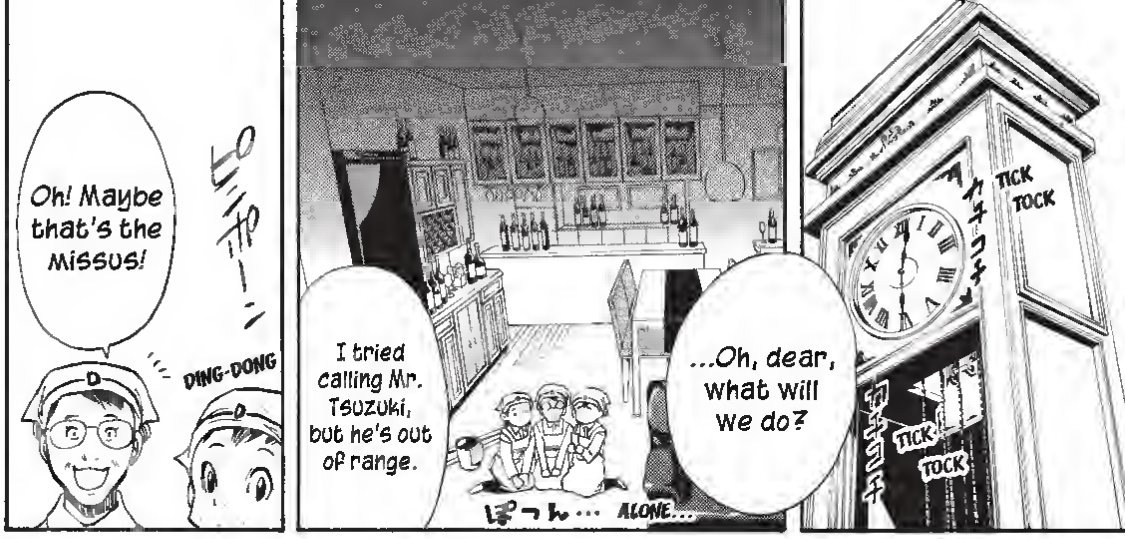
Taaakeru!
But my dad went right to the police academy without college, so it didn't seem that weird.
TEP
TEP
Yeah, maybe. Everyone else went off to college.
It must have taken some courage to go straight into the police academy out of high school,
and start training to be a detective.
Miki!
You started your first job today! Congratulations!
College Student
Miki Arisaka (19)
How about you, Miki? Are finals over?
Thanks.

Yup! Maybe I'll bug my dad until he lets me go with him to a crime scene.
Maybe we'll see each other there!
Oh! The first step on the road to police reporting.
Yeah. I'm officially on spring break now.
Dad got me a job as an assistant reporter at Kodan News.
HEE HEE
...then I'll get the scoop!
Yeah, and if I solve the case...
Uh-oh! If I slack off on my patrol, I'll catch it from my sempai.
...

I'll see you later!
Yeah!
HUFF
...I did it...
HUFF
HUFF
!
DING DONG

Pardon our intrusion!
Thank you for all your hard work.
Hello! Daiskine here! We're here for your regular cleaning!
Oh, come in.
Ha ha ha... Oh, right.
OH-HOHO!
Oh, no, no. We're just happy to be allowed into the home of the Tsuzuki-san!
Just clean everywhere you can see—in the cupboards, closets, under the bed.
Oh, the house is made of concrete. There's no attic or basement.
So the mice may have settled in there.
We don't keep a car in the garage.
Unfortunately, we've had a bit of a mouse problem recently.
You can count on us! What would you like us to do about the attic?
Since you're here, I'd like you to do a thorough cleaning of all the cabinets.
OF COURSE, I'LL PAY EXTRA.

What time will your wife be getting home?
Oh, she went out shopping this morning. She might go out to lunch with her friends,
But she should be back by the time you finish cleaning this evening.
Yes, sir!
And while you're at it, will you please clean behind the house and in the garden?
シャキーン!
SHA-KING!
Good luck!
DING DONG
ピンポーン!
Oh, that's my ride.
I have another long day ahead of me. Ha ha...
Oh, um...
Then I'll have the perfect alibi.
...It's okay. All I have to do now is wait.
Yes, yes, we understand.
TAKE CARE♡
I'll be at the studio, so I don't know if I'll be able to take any calls.
SHUT
バタン


Oh! Maybe that's the missus!
DING-DONG
I tried calling Mr. Tsuzuki, but he's out of range.
...Oh, dear, what will we do?
ぽつん… ALONE…
TICK TOCK
TICK TOCK

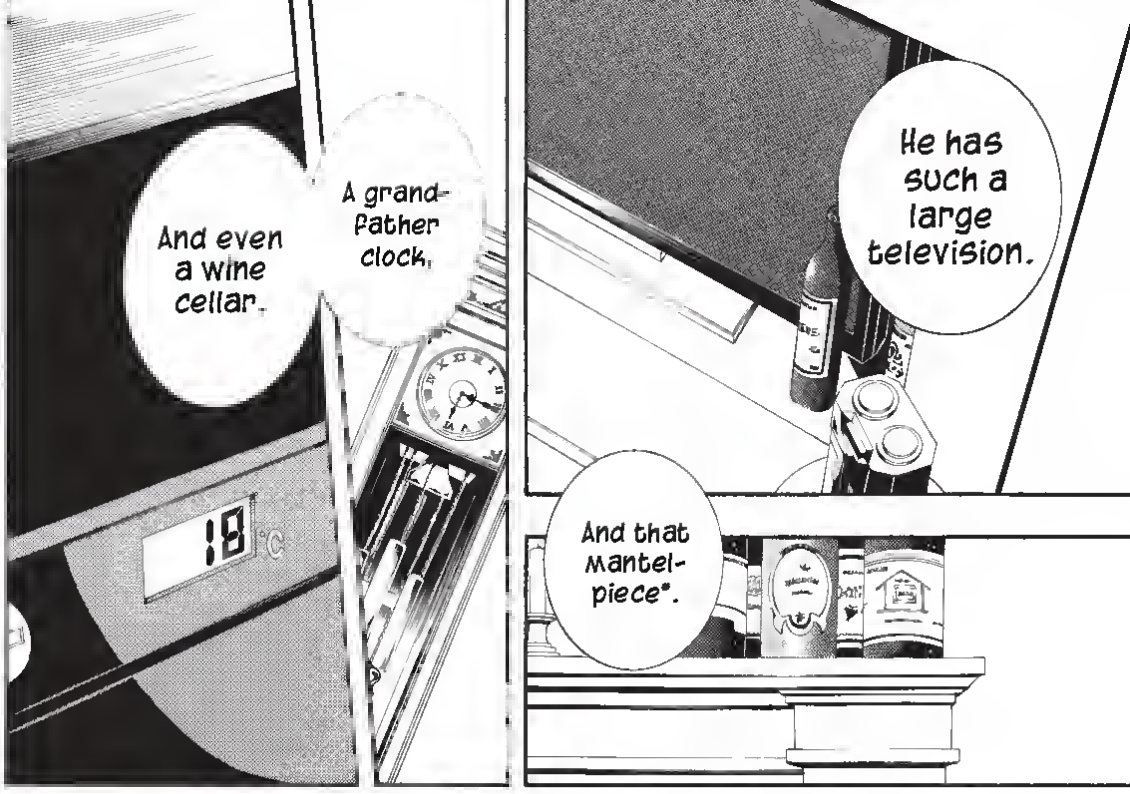
Excuse me, Tsuzuki-san!
I am Officer Wajima! I work at the police box nearby!
I've come to introduce myself so that I can keep you safe!
SALUTE!

TUG
Huh? Wh-what is it?!
Well, you see, the master of the house is the famous anchorman, Muneo Tsuzuki!
TUG
We can ask a police officer! Come in, come in!
Ooh, a police officer! This is perfect!
TUG

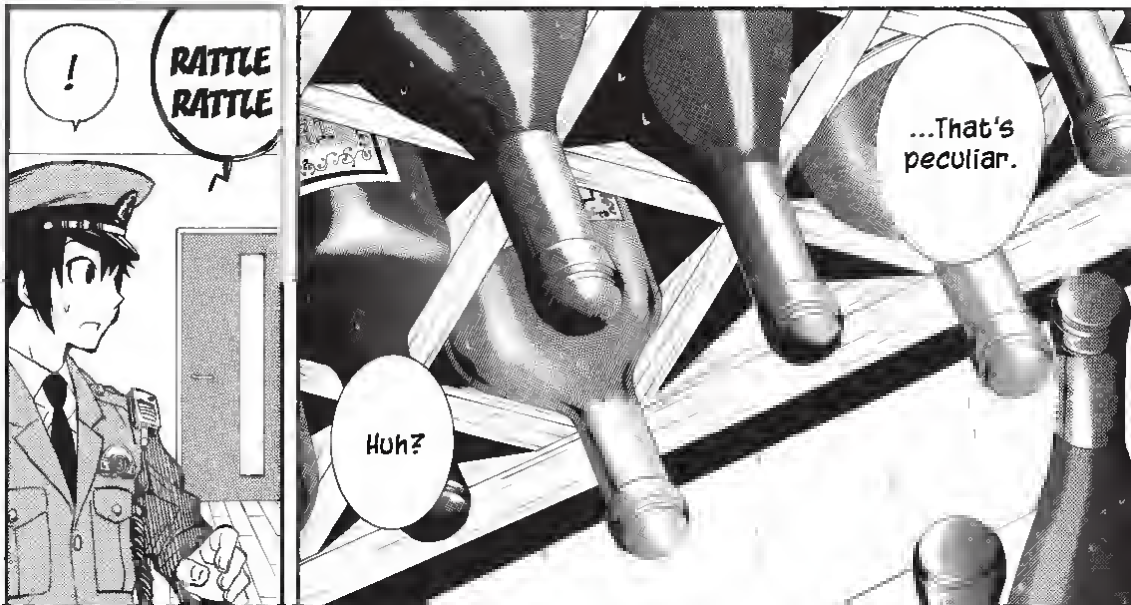
Yes, yes, and then it started to get so cold in here... But we couldn't just turn on the heater without permission.
He's out at work, and his wife hasn't come home, so we were just at our wits' end!
ALONE...
...
So, Officer, would you mind waiting here until the missus comes home? Sorry about all this.
WELL IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US. OH HO HO HO HO...

I can't make myself at home in a giant house like this!
HMM, do these "anchormen" make that much money?

Well, you may as well make yourself at home.
What do I do, Sherdog? Is this really a policeman's job?
I. FEEL MORE LIKE A BURGLAR



*Decorative framework surrounding a fireplace, usually above the fireplace.



I'm sorry! You must have been waiting here for ages!
Work just kept going and going...
KACHAK
Oh...
?!
TWITCH
...?!

GRIN
Is my wife still out, then?
Oh! Is that so.

You see, the cleaning ladies...I mean, the cleaners asked me to house sit.
Oh, sorry to have come in uninvited.
...
FLAIL
FLAIL

Huh...?

GRRR...
Something isn't right, Watson.
Y-yes, apparently she is.

He didn't say, "I'M HOME," he apologized for keeping us waiting.
But when he came through the door,
He's asking about his wife.

As if he knew from the start that his wife wouldn't be here.
What do you mean?
It's...too early to say.
Oh what a cute doggie.
Does he belong to you, Officer?
I believe...
...this man is hiding something.

SHERLOCK
BONES

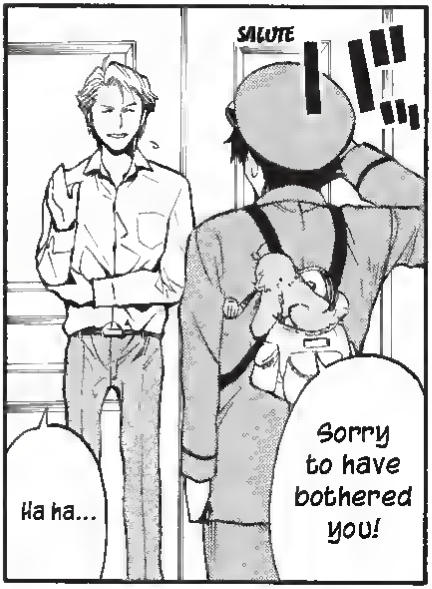
Far from worrying over the late return of his wife,
he acted as if he knew from the start that she wouldn't be here.
This man is hiding something.
GULP
...!
Does your wife often come home late?
TWITCH
Uh, UM, Tsuzuki-san.
HOLD?!
Wow, he really is a cute doggie.
MAY I HOLD HIM?

Case 8: ⚜ Requiem for a New Beginning, Part 2

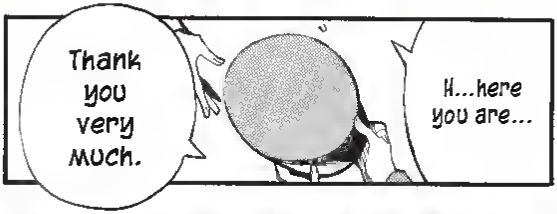
And when she does...does she call you?
Oh, right.
...No, she doesn't.
She does occasionally go to lunch with her friends and spend the rest of the day with them...
...Let me think.
If I act too calm, he might get even more suspicious... and that would mean trouble.
This is bad.
Well, if something really has happened, I hope you'll help me find her.
Hm? Oh, no, nothing like that.
Were you fighting?
Don't tell me she ran away from home...
Now that you mention it... this is a little strange. Maybe I should file a missing persons report.
THUD

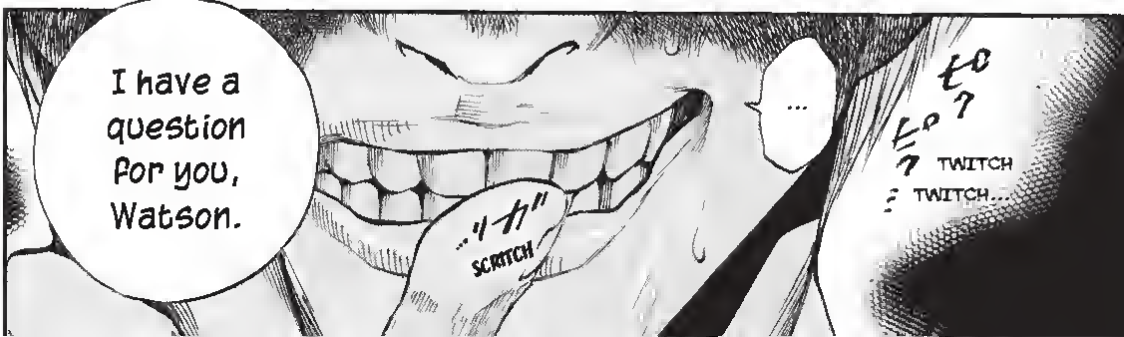
...Yes, sir!
Well, then, I'll be going now.
NOD
ARF!
Tsuzuki-san!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
It's that officer!
DING DONG
GULP
SHOONK
Whew...
...To get rid of the body.
Now...

HOW CAN I HELP YOU?!
WHAM


SALUTE
Ha ha...
Sorry to have bothered you!

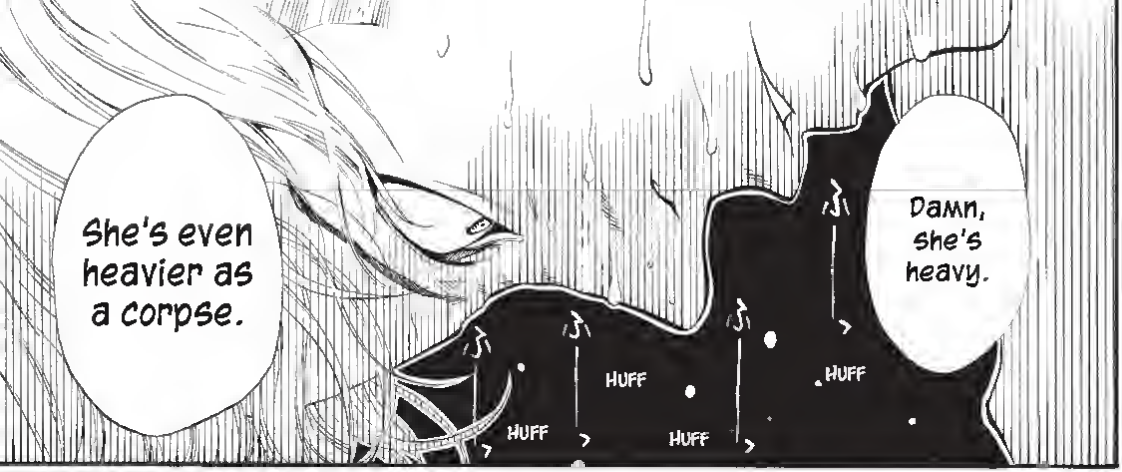
I'm sorry! I forgot my hat.
What? Oh, right... Just a moment.
It should be by the sofa...

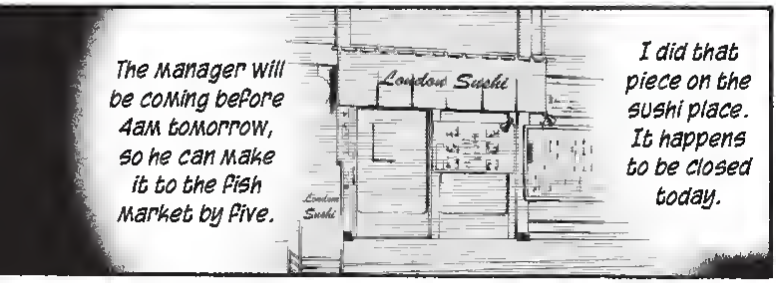

Thank you very much.
H...here you are...

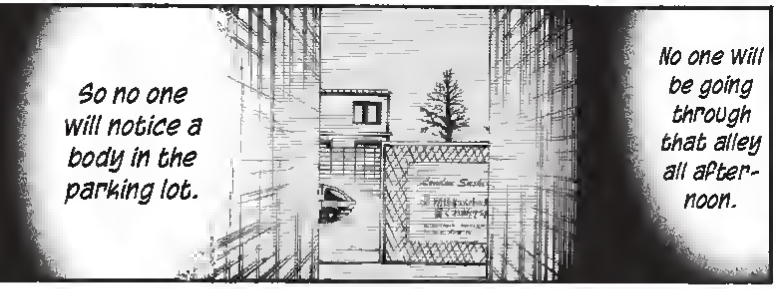

I have a question for you, Watson.
SCRATCH
...
TWITCH
TWITCH...

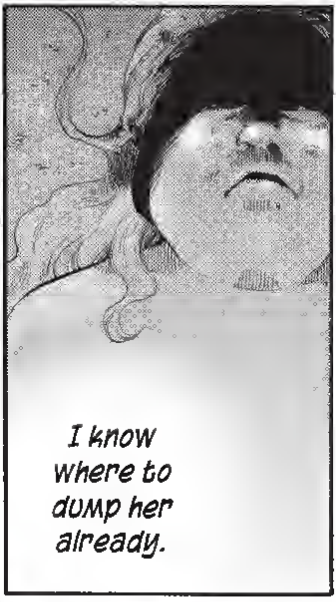
What do you think of Tsuzuki's behavior just now?
Something was definitely weird.
WSHHH
...
His wife could come home at any minute.
So why would he chain the door?
Exactly!
He believes his wife won't be coming home.
Yeah.
SKREE

I hope she just ran away because of a fight.
...
Although we have yet to discover
why he believes that.
At any rate, I understand he's a famous anchorman.
ZLRR
ZLRR
That is a strong possibility at this point in time.
ZLRR
ZLRR
...that he and his wife are on bad terms.
He wouldn't want the world to know...
ZLRR
ZLRR
ZLRR


She's even heavier as a corpse.
Damn, she's heavy.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


The manager will be coming before 4am tomorrow, so he can make it to the fish market by five.
London Sushi
I did that piece on the sushi place. It happens to be closed today.


So no one will notice a body in the parking lot.
No one will be going through that alley all afternoon.


I know where to dump her already.

WHOOSH
This will do...

It's perfect.
ZLRR...
ZLRR...

The sow's phone!
!!

I put my rented car in the garage...
Now I just have to wait until no one's around,
Then go get the sow's remains, put her in...and...
RING-A-LING RING-A-LING

Crap...it's the Mother pig!
Voice message
You said you wanted to talk today. I had a cake ready, but you never showed up What happened?
Miwa-chan, it's your mother.

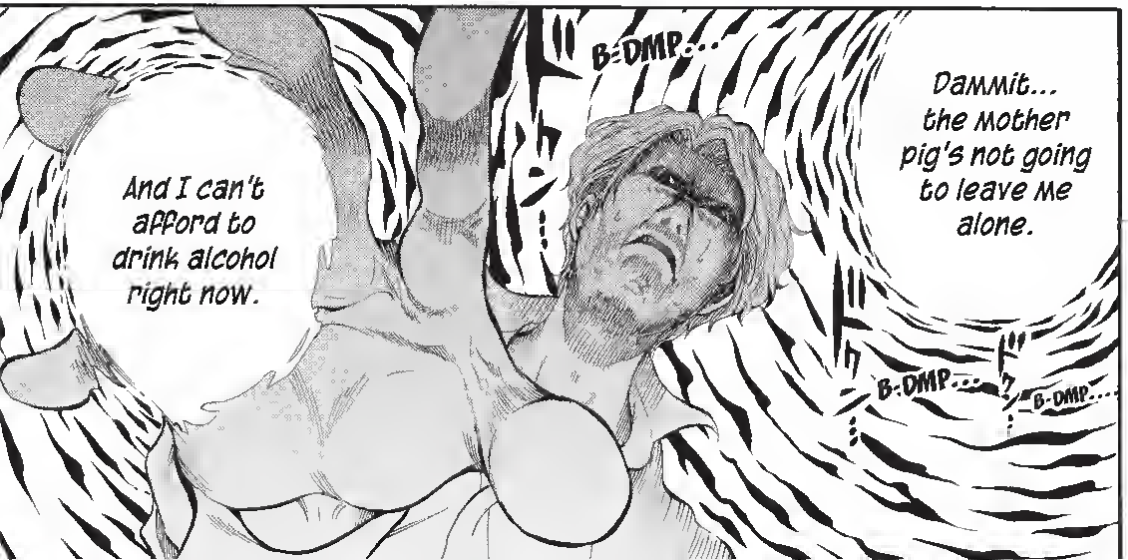
Actually...
But it sounds like she hasn't said anything about us...
WHEW—
They had a date...?

I'll be over in about five minutes, so have some tea ready ♡
CLICK
!!
DASH
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! WHY ARE YOU COMING OVER?!
DAMMIT, DAMMIT, I'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN TIME!
I HAVE TO GET THE PLACE BACK TO NORMAL— AT LEAST EVERY-WHERE THAT'S VISIBLE.
!
DING DONG
HUFF...
HUFF...

Y...yes, well, it seems she's gone out somewhere with her friends... and hasn't come back yet...
Maybe she's staying the night. Ha ha ha...
Oh, Muneo-san.
Can I see Miwa?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING, OLD HAG!
I'LL KILL HER! SINCE I'M BUTCHERING PIGS ANYWAY!
She'll be right back, I'm sure. I'll just wait.
Without calling? She would never.
Uh, y... yes, Ma'am...
LUMBER
ズケズケ
LUMBER
!!
Oh, my!
Tea...? Nn?
P-please have a seat. I'll fix some tea...

The wine I drank this morning when I killed the pig! I left it out!
When did you open it?
Isn't this the wine I gave you as a house-warming gift?
Romanée-Conti!
What good taste in wine you have!

Uh...no...
Never mind the tea. I'll have this. Would you like some?
TUP
TUP
TUP
TUP
My, you're so in love ♥
UH...
Uh...yes. Y... yesterday, Miwa and I were feeling festive... Ha ha ha...


And I can't afford to drink alcohol right now.
B-DMP...
Dammit... the Mother pig's not going to leave Me alone.
B-DMP...
B-DMP...

London Police Department
BAM
Takeru Wajima, reporting in!

MURMUR
Erk! I'M the center of attention...
Oh, what spirit!
Wajima-kun, Wajima-kun!
Ah, so youthful!

Are you in the same precinct as me?!
Nanami?!
Wow.
...
Yup! I just got assigned ♪
Patrol Officer, London PD
Patrol Officer
Akane Nanami (19)
IT-IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER...
Hey, new guy, you just got here! Stop playing around!
HM?
OH?
AH?
BAM
BAM
BAM
ドンドンドン
Oh, b-but, I did think really hard about my career.
D-doesn't it kind of feel like destiny? ...Ha ha.
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
HEH HEH
Oh no! Wajima-kun...
Owww, that hurt!
WHAM
What's that got to do with it!?!

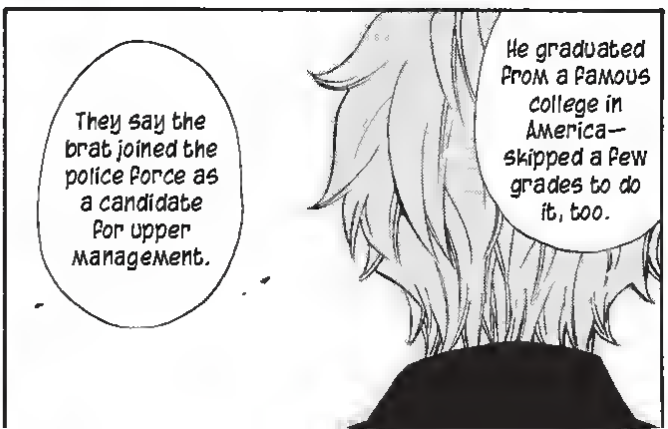
Detective, London PD
Kento Munakata (19)
Oh, I'm sorry. I shouldn't laugh.
...
My name is Kento Munakata.
Starting today, I'm a new detective here.
SS
CLACK
CLACK
He looks like he's my age... but he's a detective?
Um...Who might you be?

Looking at you, I'd say you just graduated from the police academy?
GH...
That would make us the same age... It's a pleasure!
Oh, hello. I'M Officer Takeru Wajima! The pleasure is mine!

...
SKFF
SKFF
SKFF
UM... Harayamada-sempai, who is he...?

It's so nice to meet you. I'M Officer Momo'o Harayamada...
Just what I'd expect from our future chief of police!
Oh, you're the one they're talking about... Wow, you must be really smart.
フイ...
HMPH
こび
FLATTER

What happened to it being "so nice" to meet him?
Man, I can't stand him.
PAT
TCH


They say the brat joined the police force as a candidate for upper management.
He graduated from a famous college in America— skipped a few grades to do it, too.

Don't disgrace your name.
You're from a police family.
BEAM
GRIN
GRIN
You work hard, now, new kid.
Huh? Uh... yes, sir!
GRRR
Skerdog
Your grandfather was a famous detective, after all.
Does he know my family...?
...The chief of detectives?
HOP...
Harayamada-kun, will you please get back to work?
GRIN
GRIN
Oh, sorry, Chief Yoshida!
...My late grandfather?
Did he know...

So have some oolong tea. You're coming!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHAT...? BUT I'M UNDERAGE...

You're coming with me tonight.
Hey, newbie.
PAT

AIEEEEEE!
Time for some alcommuni-cation!

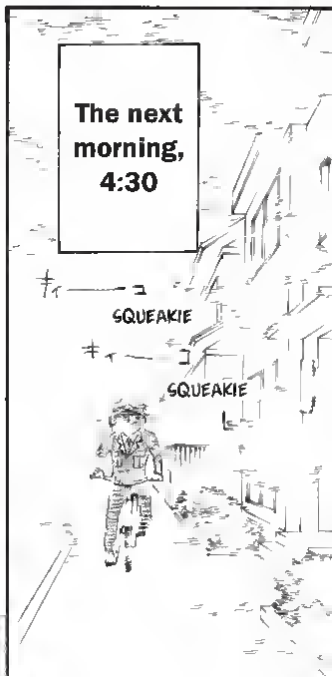
Whew.
SNORRRE...
...The drug finally kicked in.

...Now.
I need to hurry...

MWAH
Ah, what a waste... of good Romanée-Conti.

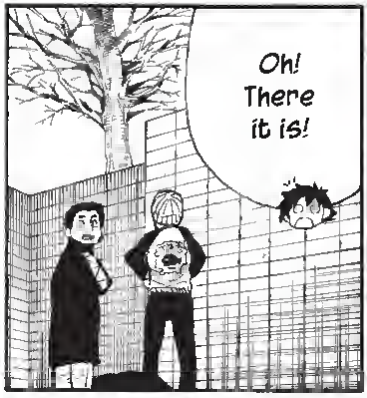
I'll drink the rest of you when this is all over.

BUT SOMEONE HAD TO CALL 110, AND NOW I HAVE TO GO TO THE CRIME SCENE.
SQUEAKIE
SQUEAKIE
I'M SOOO SLEEEPY.
SQUEAKIE
I ONLY GOT TWO HOURS OF SLEEP.


The next morning, 4:30
SQUEAKIE
SQUEAKIE

But I had to listen to Harayamada-sempai's drunken lectures all night, and all I got out of it was some oolong tea.
Says the dog...Who got to sleep.
YOU YOUNG FOLKS ...
FOR ONE THING,
HOP
You've only just been hired, and they already work you like a dog, eh, Watson?

Ugh...
!
Th...this is...


Oh! There it is!

TEP
TEP
Oh, Officer! Over here!
You said that someone was lying on the ground?

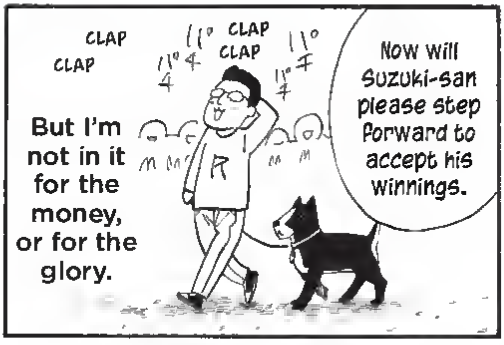
!!
Yes, over here!

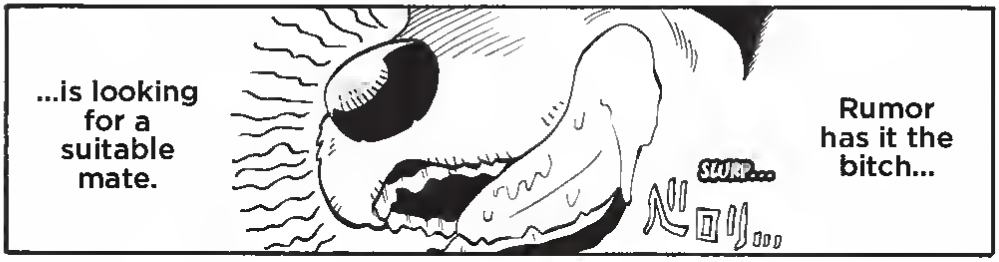
To be continued in Volume 6

Bonus

I am the long-standing champion of the Super Dog Contest, John Howard.
And I am victorious again! I never fail to impress myself!

Donko, the Pomeranian!
What I want is the sponsor's dog,

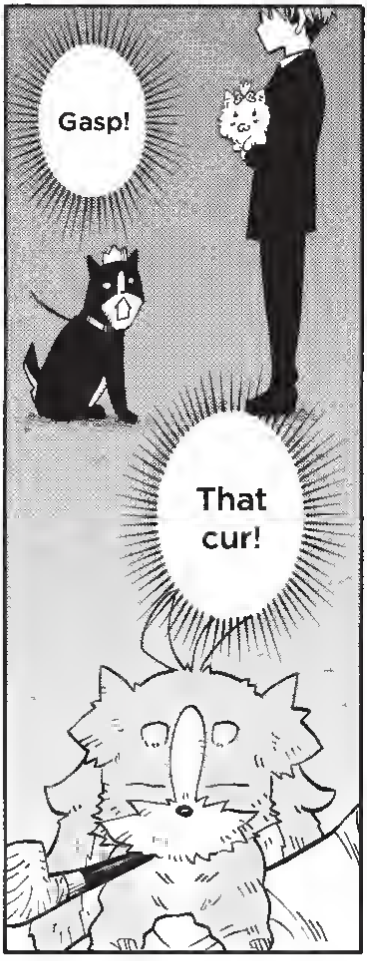

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
But I'm not in it for the money, or for the glory.
Now will Suzuki-san please step forward to accept his winnings.

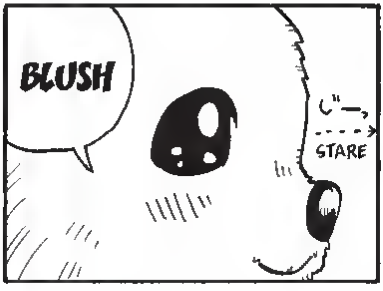

...is looking for a suitable mate.
SLURP...
Rumor has it the bitch...

And of course, the one chosen...
CONGRATS
to select the smartest, most robust male dog!
In other words, this contest was designed by Donko's owner,

ANDO-SENSEI, EDITOR S-SAN, DESIGNER-SAN, PUBLISHING COMPANY-SAN, EVERYONE IN SALES, MY STAFF, MY MENTOR, MY FRIENDS

MY FAMILY, AND ALL MY READERS, THANK YOU SO MUCH! I'LL KEEP WORKING HARD. (^^)/ YUK!





To be continued!

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Mai-Mai Shimbun, page 18
This is a parody of Mainichi Shimbun, one of the major newspapers of Japan. Mainichi means "everyday," and mai-mai means "always." Shimbun, of course, means "newspaper."

Kuji TV, page 147
This is a parody of Fuji TV, one of the major Japanese television networks.

Lady killer, page 147
In the Japanese text, Miwa called her husband a "madame killer." The principle is the similar—it refers to a man who is good at charming women—but it specifically refers to more mature women.

2-chōme kōban, page 154
Kōban, loosely translates as "police box." Kōban are like miniature police stations, spread throughout the community, bringing the police close to the community so they can respond more readily to the citizens' needs. A chōme is a subsection of a city district, with 2-chōme being the second subsection of the Baker District.

Alcommunication, page 155
While it may seem like Officer Harayamada is making this up, the term nominication (a combination of nomu (to drink) and communication) is a real, though outdated, slang term in Japan. It refers to the bonding that occurs after work hours, when a group of coworkers or college classmates goes out drinking. The English translation, alcommunication, is a combination of the words "communication" and "alcohol."

Sempai, page 158
Sempai is a term of respect used to refer to someone who has more experience than the speaker. In this case, Takeru is referring to Officer Harayamada, who has been working at his kōban longer than he has.

Call 110, page 186
In Japan, there is more than one emergency phone number. 110 is the number for the police, while 119 is for medical emergencies or fire.

Sherlock Bones volume 5 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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